FBIS DAILY REPORT

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NO HONDURAN ANSWER ON CONTADORA PROPOSALS

PY070100 Paris AFP in Spanish 2142 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 6 Aug (AFP) -- Today the deputy foreign ministers of the Contadora Group left for Guatemala where they will continue consultations regarding peace efforts in the region. However, they left without having a definite Honduran answer to their latest proposals.

In a communique issued at Toncontin airport, the deputy foreign ministers of Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico, and Panama said their tour through the area has the purpose of hearing the points of view and observations of the Central American governments regarding the Contadora Group's Peace and Cooperation Document. They explained that such consultations refer to security issues and other issues mentioned in the document that are still pending and that are preventing its signature. However, the communique states that the Contadora Group did not accept the Honduran Government's comment and observations regarding the documents. Nevertheless, the deputy foreign ministers reiterated the unwavering decision of their governments to contribute to the pacification of the region, a process which requires the political will of the parties directly involved.

For his part, the Honduran Deputy Foreign Minister Tomas Arita said the meeting with his Contadora Group counterparts was productive and positive and Honduras will promptly analyze the subjects discussed and give its answer to the consultations.

AREA PRESIDENTS MEET, HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE

PA060240 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 Aug 85

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Panamanian President Nicolas Ardito Barletts left yesterday for Cartagena de Indias with the purpose of discussing and seeking mechanisms to solve economic problems and create stability in Latin American countries. Dr Ardito Barletta met with the Colombian and Uruguayan presidents, and was received by Colombian President Belisario Betancur upon his arrival at 1015 hours at the Crespo International Airport at Cartagena.

The Panamanian president was given a 21-gun salute by Naval Academy cadets and then reviewed the Navy troops. He later met with Colombian President Belisario Betancur and Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti.

The 6-hour minisummit concluded with a press communique in which the respective governments established a multilateral stand in the face of the foreign debt and Central American conflict. Following the minisummit of the presidents, who were accompanied by their respective foreign ministers and economic advisers, Betancur, Sanguinetti, and Ardito Barletta hosted a press conference at the Cartagena de Indias Convention Center.

Commenting on the possibility of holding a summit meeting of Latin American presidents in our country, the Panamanian president said: "As I have said before, I believe that holding a meeting of Latin American presidents obviously depends on the wishes of the area presidents. Recently, the possibility of holding such a meeting in Panama was mentioned, in symbolic remembrance of the first Amphictyonic Congress that Liberator Simon Bolivar summoned in Panama in 1826. Of course, Panama would be honored to host such a meeting. However, we must realize that a meeting such as this generates high expectations among our peoples.

Should it be held, it would have to be carefully planned so it would lead to specific cooperation measures among the Latin American countries and enhance each country's efforts to improve its own situation. Cooperation among Latin American countries is the fundamental issue of our times. As we experience such difficult moments, the efforts made by each government to improve the situation of its people are not enough. Cooperation among us can also positively bind us to achieve goals beyond what each country may individually achieve. That is achieved through commercial integration, technical cooperation, exchange of information, and other measures.

Analyzing the Central American problems and the Contadora Group's role, President Ardito Barletta said: "I believe that after the recent meeting in Lima, it was made clear that the Contadora Group, as it is currently made up, will continue as the means to achieve understanding among Central American countries in order to find a path to peace. On another matter, the Lima Group, as it has been called, including Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, and Peru, has voiced its willingness to cooperate on all matters with the Contadora Group, and to provide special support to help the Contadora Group achieve its goals. We believe that was a fortunate decision, and we, the Contadora Group countries, feel morally and materially comforted by the support from the Latin American countries I have mentioned for the work we are conducting."

Meanwhile, Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti analyzed the presidential elections in Bolivia and Peru's foreign debt problems as follows: "We are closely following the presidential elections in Bolivia, because we feel that the process of democratic consolidation in that sister nation is fundamental. On this matter, this is the time for all of us to pay tribute to the stance adopted by President Siles Zuazo, who, amid so many difficulties, has been able to guide the election process in his country toward a peaceful conclusion and hold elections under normal conditions despite the dangers. All of us are following the elections, hoping that the outcome is favorable, that the Congress makes a positive decision, that all abide by that decision, and that it will generate, as it will generate throughout Latin America, enthusiasm and support. All the presidents here also share that attitude. To the extent possible, all of us are also prepared to convey our personal support for that decision within a climate of brotherhood and respect for the sovereign decisions by each people and as part of our effort to contribute to the process of democratic consolidation.

"As for Peru, that country has experienced an internal process resulting from a statement by the Peruvian Government. The U.S. Government has given a clarification to the Peruvian Government on the interpretation given to a financial problem that arose. It is not up to us to become involved or intervene in that problem. Instead, it is up to us to say, as we have clearly stated, regarding that or any other situation of a nature similar to what was apparently to be discussed regarding latent conflicts, that we reject any coercive action violating the sovereign decisions made by each country, or that may destroy the system of negotiations that the area countries have always used. This is a general comment about a situation that threatened to lead to confrontation. What matters is this: We reject and we disagree with any coercive plan to undo the decisions that each country may make, exercising its sovereignty, in order to better handle its affairs."

ALFONSIN DISCUSSES DEBT DIALOGUE, AREA SUMMIT

PY061306 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2040 GMT 5 Aug 85

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 5 Aug (NA) -- Argentine President Raul Alfonsin today announced that the Argentine economic and social conference will begin meeting on 9 August and he praised the "pluralism" of the debate on the foreign debt that was taking place in Havana. He stressed that the policies outlined at that debate must be "reconciled" and that each country must "make adjustments within the framework of an overall strategy for negotiations with the creditors." Alfonsin indicated that the Argentine delegates insisted on the need for the foreign debt to be considered from the political perspective and for a reconciliation of Latin American policies. He added that during the first 6 months of the year, this region experienced a 10-percent decline in its terms of trade.

Alfonsin went on to say that most probably a "summit" of Latin American presidents will be held next March to discuss, among other things, the region's huge debt. The Argentine president made these remarks to journalists accredited to Government House shortly after delegating power to Vice President Victor Martinez during his trip to Bolivia, where tomorrow he will attend the inauguration of President-elect Victor Paz Estenssoro.

Speaking about the meeting in Havana, Alfonsin indicated that a few minutes earlier he had met with former Central Bank President Enrique Garcia Vazquez, who "reported that everything occurred just as we expected it would." Alfonsin stated: "We insisted that the debt must be viewed from the political perspective and, even more important than the debt itself, that we must reconcile Latin American policies in the quest for justice because this, too, is working in favor of world peace." He added: "This was the position that our delegates upheld, and I believe that enough elbow room must be left for our nations to establish their own strategies." He reaffirmed: "However, this must be done starting from a basic reconciliation of our aspirations and our wishes to make universal justice a fact and to see that our peoples have the chance to work effectively to halt the sustained trade decline."

Alfonsin stressed to the journalists that "you should know that during the first 6 months of the year, Latin America suffered a 10-percent decline in its trade. Therefore, this is a very sensitive matter that is worsening the foreign debt problem." The president insisted that "the nations that are about to achieve the status of what we could call a postindustrial society must understand the difficulties that we must cope with and act accordingly." He said: "It seems to me that the logical thing (for the countries of the region) to do is to work together, because then we could defend our rights more effectively."

As for the results of the Havana meeting, Alfonsin answered that in his opinion, "everyone stated his position, which is very pluralistic and implies diversity of concepts. I believe that the important thing is the need to reconcile these policies so that later each country in line with its own strategy, conditions, and types of problems will be able to make adjustments within an overall strategy for the negotiations that it must conduct with its creditors."

In response to a question, Alfonsin admitted that the "summit" of Latin American presidents could be held next March. The meeting was called by Peruvian President Alan Garcia on the day he was installed, and Panamanian President Nicolas Ardito Barletta has asked Alfonsin to organize it. "We have been working to make a meeting of presidents possible for a long time. We believe that it could be held next March, but first there must be a meeting of foreign ministers, because a meeting of presidents cannot be held just out of the blue," Alfonsin stated.

Upon being asked when the call for the initial meeting of the Argentine economic and social conference will go out, Alfonsin answered: "We will start working on this on 9 August."

CARRANZA ON INTELLIGENCE SERVICES, WAR MATERIEL

PY061735 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1806 GMT 4 Aug 85

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 4 Aug (NA) -- Defense Minister Roque Carranza has stated that as a consequence of the antisubversive war, "it is not a question of issuing an amnesty law or of concealing the abuses," but of "establishing responsibilities." He added that the federal court ruling "will give very clear ideas to the judges to guide their action" in the future.

On another subject, he confirmed the report that the Argentine Navy will hold the joint "Fraterno" maneuvers with Brazil in November, and that "for the time being we are not going to participate" in the "Unitas" maneuvers with the United States. He added that 30 percent of the materiel lost during the Malvinas war has been replaced and that the military budget has been reduced 25 percent in real terms, compared to that of 1983.

After repeating that the trial of the former commanders in chief "affects only the military commanders and not the institutions," he criticized the manner in which some news media have been treating the matter and the headlines they have been using. Carranza made these remarks in an interview, the first exclusive interview he has granted since he assumed office as defense minister, that will be published in the August issue of the monthly ARGENTINE NEWS, published in Buenos Aires in English.

Carranza denied that the opinion of the National Intelligence Center [CNI] included in the Defense Bill implies the abolishment of the specific services of the various branches of the Armed Forces. "This is not possible," he explained, "because each branch has its own needs and there is also the need for an overall intelligence service. The CNI objective is to coordinate the activity of the various services, but, obviously, the Navy's intelligence need is not the same as that of the Army." He gave the example of the United States where "there is the CIA, but in addition each branch of the Armed Forces has its own service." Regarding the intelligence service, he said that "what we have to do is coordinate what we have to make better use of it," because "we are not in a position to spend as much as the United States, where they have two intelligence services, the National Security Agency and the CIA, because we do not have the money or the people for that."

The minister rejected remarks made recently by Roberto Pena, former head of the Secretariat for State Intelligence [SIDE]. Carranza said that "it is not true" that the Defense Ministry has not made the necessary efforts to dismantle certain groups working within the intelligence services. "That was an unfortunate statement," he said, "first of all because it should have been made when [Raul] Borras was still living and not afterward; and second, because it is not true." Carranza stated that Pena's remarks reflect "his concept that all services should be within the SIDE. I believe this is technically impossible, because of the specific needs of each service."

Regarding the replacement of materiel lost during the Malvinas war, he said that 30 percent of it has been replaced. He added that there has been no "increase in the number of aircraft, ships, ammunition, or anything else." He said that the reequipment process "has been different in each force, especially in the Army which had a limited participation in the war, but there has been no rearmament escalation and not everything that was lost in the war has been replaced."

REPORTAGE ON PAZ ESTENSSORO INAUGURAL ACTIVITIES

Senate President's Decree

Y070217 La Paz Domestic Service in Spanish 2028 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Decree read by Senate President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada during presidential inauguration ceremony at the National Congress in La Paz -- live]

[Text] Because the National Congress has enacted the following law, the National Congress hereby decrees:

Article 1) According to articles Nos 90, 87, and 91 of the Constitution, citizens Victor Paz Estenssoro and Julio Garret Ayllon, who were elected by the honorable National Congress during a session on 4 August 1985 are hereby proclaimed constitutional president of the Republic and constitutional vice president of the Republic, respectively, for the term running from 6 August 1985 to 6 August 1989.

Article 2) The lawful oath of office and the solemn investiture of the proclaimed citizens will take place during a session of the honorable National Congress to be held on 6 August 1985 following the established protocol.

Communicate to the executive branch for constitutional purposes.

Approved on the floor of the honorable National Congress on 5 August 1985.

(Signed) Honorable Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, president of the honorable National Senate; Honorable Gaston Encinas Valverde, president of the honorable Chamber of Deputies; Honorable Senator Luis Anez Alvarez, secretary; Honorable Senator Luis Pelaez (Lloas), secretary; Honorable Deputy Alvaro Perez del Castillo, secretary; Honorable Deputy [name indistinct], secretary.

Paz Estenssoro Speech

PY062318 La Paz Domestic Service in Spanish 2037 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Speech given by Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro during his inauguration ceremony at the National Congress in La Paz -- live]

[Text] Your Excellency, former president of the Republic; Your Excellencies heads of state; honorable congressmen; Your Excellencies the president and members of the Supreme Court; Your Excellencies foreign ministers and deputy foreign ministers from friendly countries; Your Excellencies special envoys; Your Excellency the apostolic nuncio; Your Excellencies members of the foreign diplomatic corps accredited in Bolivia; honorable members of parliaments of friendly countries; Your Excellencies representatives of international organizations:

Under circumstances that are dramatic for us Bolivians and particularly cruel for the defenseless people, we begin a new stage of democratic evolution in government. Notwithstanding the crisis in the past and its tremendous economic, social, and political realities, we must have the necessary courage and firmness to examine openly the abysmal difficulties of the present and undertake a joint task of unprecedented dimensions in order to overcome the crisis and, if possible, reverse the ethical and material destruction of the nation.

Despite the magnitude of the disaster that is evident in the nation, we can preserve democratic continuity and the basic institutions of the Republic. The threats against the republican structure, which has been constantly disrupted during almost 2 decades of intermittent struggles for power, and the consequent deprivation of essential individual liberties, have been overcome, thanks to the [word indistinct] and tenacity of Bolivians, who are determined to live in accordance with their basic law, the Constitution, preserving and keeping the civilized system alive. This should not be the exclusive purpose of a party or a sector of society. The greatness of the challenge involves all Bolivians; it goes beyond selfish party interests, and everyone must assume a great responsibility for the country's future.

The bloody attacks on legal order seem to belong to the past. After the confrontations, which are typical of elections, Bolivia is now taking a course that will permit peaceful and constructive solutions. The long process of institutional consolidation in Bolivia has not been a total waste by any means. But it is also suitable to point out that democracy per se, which is a condition of estimable well-being, is not a complete idea or a cure for all evils, unless it is accompanied by solutions to the major problems affecting our people.

What can we offer the country with no fear of failing to fulfill our campaign promise? What are all national sectors expecting at this hour of bitter and difficult crisis and of lassitude? If we do not immediately implement a set of pragmatic, realistic, and consistent measures that will absorb the impact of the crisis, we face possible bankruptcy, with its consequent chaos and social disintegration.

The government over which I am presiding will not allow this to happen, and the Bolivian people are summoned to join forces and cooperate in such a difficult undertaking. In this task, there is no room for the skeptical, for the indifferent, for those who speculate with the current crisis, for those who persist in defending their selfish interests, or for those labor leaders engaged in criminally exacerbating the struggle among classes which undermines the best objectives of national recovery.

But it should be understood that the task we are undertaking does not exclude anyone, and we will try to benefit all social classes of the nation with the fruits achieved under our policy.

However, we want to make it clear that the poorest sectors will receive most of our dedication and efforts, and they will be the government's main concern. During more than a third of a century of our history, we have continued our tradition and spirit of issuing laws favoring the poorest sectors, and of focusing the government's attention on problems affecting the majority of the people. [applause]

The seriousness of the crisis requires that there is a difference between what is possible and what is ideal or optimum. The magnitude of the economic and social crisis that is smothering us and humiliating us as a nation demands immediate action within the limits of the situation which no longer admits experiments and hesitations at the cost of aggravating the suffering of the Bolivian people.

To prevent the people from being victims of illusions, we must clearly set in advance the essential guidelines for this government's action. In all important national sectors, we intend to do what is possible, without engaging in false promises that could raise hopes that will end up aggravating this collective effort.

We do not promise any spectacular or quick solutions. The measures we are going to adopt, either as a package or individually, will represent significant, and modest but continuous progress toward pulling us out of the current crisis. [applause]

A coordinated effort will be necessary, requiring self-sacrifice, vigilance, tirelessness, and perseverance. The problem is extrememly complex because it encompasses not just an isolated aspect of the domestic situation or even one vital issue, but a variety of problems and a set of important matters which are closely interrelated. They include: a decrease in production and an increase in costs, debasement of our currency caused by a huge inflation rate, salaries that do not keep up with the increasing cost of living, foreign indebtedness that must be renegotiated without taking away from our people what they are entitled to [applause], the unbridled corruption that fuels a voracious speculative economy. These, among others, are the elements of a drama which is unfolding over the entire economic and social state.

Regarding priorities, the reactivation of the productive apparatus has a crucial position, both for the solution to the crisis and for the resumption of the development of our troubled economy. Without this fundamental condition, which is valid both for the capitalist world and the socialist world, all projects and plans that can be implemented are doomed to failure. But we also know that in order to reactivate the productive structure of our economic potential, it is necessary to examine the material and administrative elements related to its entrepreneurial organization and the technological apparatus, which is badly deteriorated. It is necessary to increase the production of goods and services that are urgently needed to alleviate the hardships the people are experiencing.

Mining, an activity that is basic to the national economy, must play its important role without the permanent support of the Central Bank, which has been covering the catastrophic deficits of the state enterprise. The Bolivian people have had to defray these costs. The establishment of a single, real rate of exchange, which is one of the monetary measures to be adopted, will greatly stimulate mineral exports. The Bolivian Mining Corporation, Comibol, will be thoroughly reorganized, with regional decentralization of its branches [applause]. Workers, employees, and technicians will have to strongly support this measure in order to solve the national problem and to preserve their own jobs.

Regarding hydrocarbons, we can no longer postpone development in this area. To say it in a few words, Bolivia does not have the capital resources to make the heavy investments its industry requires. The fact that domestic savings currently do not exist because of a drop in production and considerable capital flights, makes it impossible to count on domestic financial support. For this reason, there is no other realistic alternative than to call in foreign capital under the best possible terms for the country. [applause]

A quick review of the status of the Bolivian Government Oil Deposits [YPFB] has also revealed that the stability of this enterprise is being undermined by serious gaps: The sale of YPFB products at artificially low prices has led to illegal operations and has caused an internal waste of fuels; and the overgrowth of YPFB bureaucracy has resulted in outright collusion among administrative personnel and some union leaders and technicians to obtain special benefits by taking advantage of being part of an enterprise that is the pillar of our national development. [applause]

It will be necessary to completely reorganize YPFB first and then to secure financial resources to undertake the basic tasks of oil prospecting and exploitation, if we do not want to face the dramatic possibility of having to import growing quantities of oil in the short-term.

To implement this new realistic approach, we will draft a new investment code which, without giving away our national resources and without favoring a neocolonialism that is detrimental to lofty Bolivian interests, will promote the inflow of capital and technology in accordance with rules that will have to be laid down.

There is a political position in Bolivia that insists on closing Bolivia to foreign investment. Under the present circumstances, we cannot let the country plunge indefinitely into paralysis and poverty out of fear of foreign investment and initiative.

In line with the highest national interests and safeguarding national sovereignty and dignity, I also want to announce that we will plan joint undertakings between the government and foreign investors to undertake new prospecting and production in the mining and oil sectors. [applause]

The government may be the majority stockholder of these enterprises, which can be managed by private shareholders under the supervision of a joint board of directors. These enterprises will open unprecedented possibilities of socioeconomic development to promote the well-being of the Bolivian people.

Without depriving our nation of its future economic prospects, today we will have to use part of its unused wealth.

We believe it is absolutely necessary not to limit the struggle against the serious Bolivian economic crisis to simply overcoming those factors that have either prompted it or have worsened it. Once these factors are overcome, the government should immediately undertake a development plan that will take into account, among other things, the following objectives: to increase the GDP; to increase the per capita income and to distribute the national income while observing social justice; and to broaden the bases of the national economy, on which we will base our efforts to promote the people's progress.

If we do not have our courses of action regarding development prepared during this stage of the crisis, we will condemn the country to a permanent state of precarious subsistence.

The socioeconomic development of the campesinos, a majority that has achieved a clear political awareness, will be achieved through what the MNR outlined during its campaign as agropower. [applause] Its planning must provide the answers for the rational and timely action that will guarantee an equitable supply of assets to cover the basic needs of the people, such as nutrition, education, health, income and employment. Agropower also means the alliance of classes, agrarian revolution, balanced development, social justice, and a reduction of dependency -- factors that will lead us to economic freedom.

Viewing Bolivia's future, it can be observed that the potential of its natural wealth must be preserved. Ecological depredation of the land, water, forests, and wildlife, the depredation of nature, shows us that there has been great squandering of our land, water, and biological resources, thus endangering our economic future and the precarious balance of the environment, which is so delicate due to the inexorable [words indistinct].

The dominant corruption that reigns throughout the country must be eradicated at the roots [applause] -- without taking into consideration the importance of the individuals involved in this crime. Those who use the state apparatus -- from top to bottom -- as though it were a sanctuary, to implement practices that corrode the morals of our people cannot be tolerated because they live off our collective misery.

This criminal network that weakens Bolivian society as a whole also involves a business network that is the intermediary in various types of deals, but we want them to know that they must carry out their activities within the framework of the law. [applause]

Within this framework of corruption that has eaten deep in to some groups of our society we find the ever-increasing drug traffic, which not only puts our youth in danger because of the temptation that trafficking offers and drug addiction itself, it also seriously harms Bolivia's image abroad. The pressure being applied on the country to reduce the clandestine trafficking in drugs has forced us to carry out a more strict control of the clandestine manufacture of drugs and their traffic.

Therefore, we will do our utmost to combat that dreadful scourge. [applause] However, we must make it clear that in this governmental task of facing the multinational drug trafficking network, which is headquartered in the United States of America and Europe, Bolivia is just another link in the criminal chain which is so well-established beyond our borders. [applause]

Looking at the other side of the issue, it is necessary to consider the cultivation and the chewing of the coca leaf since pre-Hispanic times. To (?eradicate) this ancestral usage does not seem to be a viable policy. In fact, we will vigorously act against surplus coca-leaf production, which is being used in such an infamous industry. In keeping with this, it will be necessary to count on substantial international cooperation and to reach an agreement that permits adequate replacement of cultivation in areas that exceed the need for local coca consumption. We will develop an efficient campaign against the traffic between our territory and the drug consumption centers. Efforts to combat this malady will be necessary at both ends of this trade, that is, where the raw material is produced and where cocaine is finally marketed.

The commitment we made with the people and our political will to govern and to consider extremely complicated solutions forces us to state that we are assuming this responsibility with firmness, although with humility. And we will show that we will govern with full authority within the law [words indistinct] that could lead us to admit anarchy as an exotic form of revolutionary beliefs [revolucionarismo], something that has greatly harmed Bolivia. [applause]

No privileges or weaknesses will hinder the gigantic effort to reconstruct the material and moral foundations of the country.

Bolivia's international relations must strengthen our spirit, especially our relations with the nations of the American hemisphere, and the neighboring countries with which, to the extent possible under mutual agreements we must undertake binational projects that will allow us to engage in a mutually beneficial economic partnership.

My government will especially dedicate itself to commercial, and cultural ties with the United States of America, Spain, and the EC countries as well as Japan, the Soviet Union, and PRC. [applause]

But beyond that policy, we will remain faithful supporters of the joint efforts of the so-called Third World or nonaligned countries that maintain a position equidistant from the great powers. Maybe this independent stance is a mere illusion of the weak or an expression of a desire for autonomy, however, it will allow us to make ourselves heard in that part of the world that is not besieged by underdevelopment and poverty and is not in need of hope.

As far as our landlocked situation is concerned, we will continue to state at international forums our demands for the lost outlet to the sea without giving up our contention that Bolivia's landlocked situation is not a bilateral affair but a problem which has a bearing on the peace of the hemisphere. [applause]

For the sake of fraternal coexistence, I offer my hand without any reservations or selfishness to the political adversaries from whom we have been separated by the heat of the electoral campaign, [applause] because the time has come to break down the walls between all Bolivians.

A hard task awaits us. The end of this collective effort is not near or even in sight. The road ahead of a us is long and full of hardships, sacrifices and probably discouragement as well. Thus, we need the help of all citizens that have faith in the nation's destiny. Fortunately, for this task we can count on invaluable human resources, honorable and great people -- especially when times are difficult -- whom I am deeply pleased to greet with respect and admiration.

Before closing this speech I must express my gratitude for the honorable presence of chiefs of state, lawmakers and diplomats from friendly nations and representatives of international organizations whose participation in this ceremony honors our country and constitutes a lofty moment in the Bolivian people's quest for democracy and commits us even more to pursuing this effort to its final consolidation. [applause]

Addresses New Cabinet

PY070202 La Paz Domestic Service in Spanish 2328 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Speech by President Victor Paz Estenssoro at the swearing in of the new Bolivian cabinet at Government House in La Paz -- live]

[Text] Fellow citizens:

Today we begin a new presidential term in office which, as has been noted today in Congress, is marked by the fact that a democratically elected administration has turned over power to another democratically elected administration. In order to fulfill the essential goals we mentioned in our speech in Congress this afternoon, we have sought to assemble a cabinet which, in addition to being professionally qualified for the various functions, would also be representative of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement, that is, of a party based on a class alliance.

I have faith that the people chosen will perform to the best of their ability and carry out the tasks that have been entrusted to them. My trust arises from the fact that Bolivia's fate is at stake and this compels all of us who have assumed responsibilities at whatever government position, to make the utmost effort to come up with the most appropriate solutions for our problems.

This is not an easy task and it requires the help of all Bolivians. Thus, we cannot adopt factional or partisan attitudes. From the moment I took the constitutional oath this afternoon, I ceased to be the president of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement. I am now the president of all Bolivians and this will be my standard behavior in the exercise of power. [applause]

New Cabinet Members Listed

PY070145 La Paz Domestic Service in Spanish 2340 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Decree appointing new cabinet read at Government House in La Paz; read by unidentified speaker -- live]

[Text] Victor Paz Estenssoro, constitutional president of the nation;

Whereas, in keeping with the national Constitution it is the president of the Republic's prerogative to appoint the members of his cabinet,

Decrees:

Article 1. The following persons are appointed to the ministries listed below:

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship	Dr Gaston Araoz Levy
Minister of Interior and Justice	Dr Federico Kaune Arteaga
Minister of National Defense	Dr Fernando Valle
Minister of Finance	Robert Quisbert
Minister of Planning and Coordination	Dr Quillermo Bedregal Gutierrez
Minister of Education and Culture	Prof Enrique Ipina Melgar
Minister of Transport and Communications	Nestor Dalenz
Minister of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism	Douglas Ascarrunz
Minister of Labor and Labor Development	Dr Walter Costas Badani
Minister of Social Security and Public Health	Dr Hugo Rodriguez Serrano
Minister of Mines and Metallurgy	Sinforoso Cabrera
Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Campesino Affairs	Mauricio Mamani (Pocoata)
Minister of Energy and Hydrocarbons	Eng Orlando Donoso
Minister of Urban Development and Housing	Arch Carlos Alcides Aliaga
Minister Secretary General of the Presidency	Dr Guillermo Riveros Tejada
Minister of Information	Dr Reynaldo Peters
Minister of Integration	Eng Fernando Caceres
Minister of Aeronautics	Maj Gen Antonio Tovar Pierola

Article 2. The abovementioned ministers will take their oath today in the course of a special ceremony, which will take place at Government House. Issued at the Government House in La Paz on 6 August 1985.

Signed: Dr Victor Paz Estenssoro, president of the Republic [applause]

Armed Forces Chief Confirmed

PY07152 Paris AFP in Spanish 0107 GMT 7 Aug 85

[Text] From the balcony of Government House Victor Paz Estenssoro, the newly inaugurated Bolivian president for the 1985-89 term, has received the military honors of the High Command and the troops of the three branches of the Armed Forces and police.

In his role as captain general of the Armed Forces, the president received the military report from General Simon Sejas Tordoya who has been confirmed in his post as commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

It has been reported that the ministerial cabinet will be installed and that the government plan will be implemented within the next few hours. Outgoing President Hernan Siles Zuazo on leaving Congress headed for his car to return to his private residence.

Sejas Tordoya Urges Unity

PY070239 Paris AFP in Spanish 0201 GMT 7 Aug 85

[Text] La Paz, 7 Aug (AFP) -- General Simon Sejas Tordoya, commander of the Bolivian Armed Forces, said today: I would like to call on all political, economic, and social organizations, especially the people, to put aside personal interests in order to take the country out of the economic, social, and especially the moral crisis affecting the country.

Sejas Tordoya made this comment after the new cabinet of Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro was sworn in. He said the fact that a transfer of power from one constitutional government to another took place is a very important event in the country. General Sejas pointed out that the Armed Forces will be faithful to the state powers. He added that activities in the Armed Forces are completely normal.

In conclusion, General Sejas said the military High Command, the commanders of the Army, Air Force, and Navy, placed their positions at the disposal of the president and it is up to the president to decide whether they are going to continue in their positions.

It has been learned from government sources that the military High Command will be confirmed by the president and that they will hold their positions until the end of this year.

Army Chief Supports Constitution

PY061908 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Text] The Armed Forces will continue to fully respect the Constitution. This statement was made by Army Commander in Chief General Raul Lopez Leyton exclusively for Radio Panamericana.

Gen Lopez Leyton stated that he is pleased that the election of the constitutional president of the Republic has been successfully completed. The high-ranking military officers also stated that we, the Army, are satisfied that the Constitution has been respected. Questioned about the future behavior of the military, Gen Lopez Leyton stated that, as an institution, the Army is trained in a patriotic spirit for which reason it will always respect the Constitution and the laws in force. The general also revealed that the military leadership will place their posts at the disposal of the new president, adding that Dr Victor Paz Estenssoro may or may not confirm the current military leadership. Together with this report, sources close to the new president have leaked that the current military leadership reportedly will be confirmed until December 1985, when the postings are usually renewed.

MIR Leader Views Cooperation

PY061645 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Text] MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] leader Jaime Paz Zamora was at El Alto International Airport to welcome representatives from friendly countries arriving for the Bolivian presidential inauguration. Jaime Paz Zamora gave his opinion on the presidential election held in the National Congress.

[Begin Paz Zamora recording] In the first place, I feel that the fact that we were able to properly conclude this electoral process, and especially the fact that we did it within the framework of the Constitution, represents a success and a victory for the Bolivian people.

Setting aside who has been or who has not been elected president, I feel that the goal of furthering the democratic process has been achieved. Our party set that goal for itself and furthered a government in which we do not participate. We are not part of the government. We are in the opposition, but an opposition that will be of service, an opposition that will contribute solutions to overcome Bolivian's problems. [end recording]

Radio Panamericana asked Paz Zamora about the attack against the MIR launched in Congress by former MIR leader Antonio Aranibar.

[Begin Paz Zamora recording] We are used to attacks from the extreme right to the extreme left. But I believe his attack displayed his primitive political attitude because he criticized the establishment of the Chamber of Deputies commissions. I do not see any crime in establishment commissions in the Chamber of Deputies. It seems there is a certain neurotic attitude concerning the view of democracy of certain extreme leftist groups that are sitting in Congress but do not want to enter into agreements with anyone. [end recording]

These were comments MIR leader Jaime Paz Zamora made to Radio Panamericana. The MIR is the third political force in the country.

Uruguayan President Departs

PY070206 Paris AFP in Spanish 0155 GMT 7 Aug 85

[Text] La Paz, 6 Aug (AFP) -- Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti has left for his country after the inauguration of Victor Paz Estenssoro, the new Bolivian President. President Sanguinetti's plane left El Alto Airport at 1950 local time (2350 GMT).

Argentine President Leaves

PY070210 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2340 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Text] La Paz, 6 Aug (TELAM) -- Argentine President Raul Alfonsin has returned to Argentina after attending the presidential inauguration of Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro and meeting with his Latin American counterparts. Alfonsin left from the El Alto International Airport at 1932 Argentine time.

Betancur Returns to Colombia

PY070208 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0128 GMT 7 Aug 85

[Text] La Paz, 6 Aug (TELAM) -- Airport officials confirmed that the Colombian presidential airplane that left La Paz about 2300 GMT tonight returned a few minutes later to the El Alto International Airport because of mechanical problems. Belisario Betancur and his delegation boarded the airplane after attending the Bolivian presidential inauguration this afternoon. After the technical problems were overcome the airplane took off again for the Colombian capital.

'Final' Vote Tabulation

PY031451 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 3 Aug 85

[By Cristina Corrales]

[Text] The Electoral Court concluded the vote count early this morning. The credentials of some of the newly elected congressmen were not handed over because they did not report to the court. The remaining credentials will be handed over today.

According to the final vote count, there is a 37,031-vote difference between ADN [Nationalist Democratic Action] and the MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement]. This figure is larger than the one released a few hours ago. Minor changes have also occurred in the number of votes won by three parties.

Here is the final vote count of the 1985 elections:

MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left]	153,143
MRTKL [Tupaj Katari Revolutionary Movement of Liberation]	31,678
ACP [Popular Civic Action]	12,918
MRTK [Tupaj Katari Revolutionary Movement]	16,269
AHUR [Humanist Revolutionary Action]	9,420
MNR-V [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement-Vanguard faction]	72,197
IU [United Left]	10,892
MNRI [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left]	82,418
ARENA [National Renewal Alliance]	8,669
FSB [Bolivian Socialist Falange]	19,985
MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement]	456,704
POR [Revolutionary Workers Party]	13,712
FPU [United People Front]	38,124
PDC [Christian Democratic Party]	24,079
FNP [Progressive National Force]	9,635
ADN [Nationalist Democratic Action]	493,735
MNRI-1 [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left One]	11,696
Valid votes	1,504,056 [all figures as heard]

As for the composition of Congress, the MIR will have 15 deputies and 1 senator; the MRTKL will have 2 deputies; the MNRV 6 deputies; the MNRI 8 deputies; the FSB 3 deputies, the MNR 43 deputies and 16 senators; and FPU 4 deputies; and PDC 3 deputies; and ADN 42 deputies and 10 senators; the PS-1 5 deputies.

We reiterate that these are the final vote count results released by the Electoral Court early this morning. Approximately 50 percent of the newly elected congressmen have already received their credentials; the remaining group will receive theirs this morning. The vote count ended at about 2300. The distribution of credentials began at 2335 and lasted until early in the morning.

Concerning the ADN charge on 394 missing ballot boxes, the La Paz electoral court has ruled that the charge is groundless. Therefore, the ADN charge has been dismissed because it was confirmed that the allegedly missing ballot boxes were included in the La Paz vote count.

CARABINEROS DIRECTORATE TO BE DISBANDED

PY070358 Paris AFP in Spanish 0348 GMT 7 Aug 85

[Text] Santiago, 6 Aug (AFP) -- Rodolfo Stange Oelckers, director general of the Chilean Carabineros, today announced the disbanding of the Carabineros Communications Directorate (Diconcar). A special judge had accused Diconcar of being involved in the kidnapping and assassination of three members of the Communist Party. We are reviewing our organizational structure and I can tell you right now that Diconcar will be disbanded and its personnel reassigned to the usual preventive tasks of our institution, he said.

NEW CARABINEROS SECURITY DIRECTOR NAMED

PY061848 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Text] General Oscar Torres Rodriguez will be installed as the new Carabineros director of order and security on 7 August, replacing General Carlos Onofre Perez, who resigned recently. Torres has been working as the director of the Fifth Inspection Zone seated in Valdivia.

WORKERS FEDERATION WANTS CARABINEROS REORGANIZED

PY061330 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 Aug 85

[Excerpts] The organizations that make up the Democratic Federation of Workers have sent a public letter to the president of the Republic demanding the immediate reorganization of the Chilean Carabineros Corps in view of the resolution issued by Judge Jose Canovas Robles. They also stated that the kidnapping of psychologist Carmen Andrea Hales is just a smokescreen to divert the people's attention from the investigation into the triple murder case.

At a press conference, Eduardo Rios, president of the Democratic Federation of Workers, read a letter sent to General Augusto Pinochet. It states that the Interior Ministry's mission is to maintain the country's internal order and security and to safeguard the security of all its inhabitants. This task has always been the responsibility of the Carabineros Corps, which historically was subordinate to the Interior Ministry until 1974 when it was turned over to the Defense Ministry by a government order. Referring to the kidnapping of Carmen Andrea Hales, Rios stated that his organizations believe that it is just a smokescreen to conceal the resolution by Judge Jose Canovas Robles. He also extended the federation's solidarity to the Hales family over this event, which in no way contributes to the national reconciliation advocated by Cardinal Juan Francisco Fresno.

'OPPOSITION' TAKES OVER EC OFFICE IN SANTIAGO

PY062113 Paris AFP in Spanish 1723 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Text] Santiago, 6 Aug (AFP) -- Eight Chilean opposition members took over the EC offices in Santiago today to call international attention to 13 union and social leaders who were arrested on orders from the military government of President Augusto Pinochet. The arrest took place over the weekend amid popular agitation over the alleged participation of policemen in the recent murder of three dissidents. EC officials told AFP that the people who took over the EC offices, seven women and one man, entered without violence and announced they would remain there indefinitely.

NEW LIBERALISM SELECTS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

PA070158 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 5 Aug 85 p 1

[Text] The New Liberalism congress concluded 3 days of discussions well past midnight with the proclamation of Senator Luis Carlos Galan as its presidental candidate. The proclamation was approved at noon by one of the Galanista assembly's commissions; it was proposed at the plenary meeting by Gloria Cecilia Lara, sister of murdered Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla. The New Liberalism assembly chose the National Council following a lengthy debate. During the last session, the Galanista convention approved the movement's platform.

M-19 CLASHES WITH ARMY IN VALLE, QUINDIO

PA062233 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Text] Strict air and land control is being carried out by the National Army in an attempt to locate the 19 April Movement [M-19] guerrillas who fled after clashing with Colombian Army troops between Valle and Quindio. Military spokesmen for the 8th Brigade reported that the bloody clash occurred during the early hours of the morning when more than 300 subversives of the Mariscal Sucre Column entered the town of Bugalagrande and clashed with members of the Cisneros, Vencedores, and Ayacucho Battalions. During the shootout between the soldiers and rebels, more than 10 rebels were killed. A soldier identified as Jose Xavier Hernandez Diaz was also killed. The Valle and Quindio civilian and military authorities have planned special operations in an attempt to capture the insurgents and control the difficult public order situation.

FARC DECIDES TO JOIN NATIONAL DIALOGUE

PA070022 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2344 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Text] Bogota, 6 Aug (EFE) -- The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) announced its intention to join the national dialogue, pillar of the truce and cease-fire agreements that the Colombian Government signed with other guerrillas organizations. The FARC's decision was announced by Commander Alvaro Salazar as the 10 subcommissions for the national dialogue renewed their sessions to evaluate the agreements.

According to the Popular Liberation Army (EPL) and the 19 April Movement (M-19) -- group that broke the truce on 21 June -- a national dialogue is the only way to discuss the social, economic, and political changes that the country needs. The FARC was the first guerrilla group to sign the truce agreement with President Belisario Betancur's government on 28 March 1984. The truce went into effect 2 months later.

In view of the upcoming 1986 elections, the FARC became a political party in November 1984 under the name Patriotic Unity (UP). Despite the fact that a national dialogue was not included in the agreements -- a condition placed by the EPL and M-19 -- the FARC, according to Salazar, has decided to join in the dialogue as a means to revitalize the peace process. Following the meeting during which the work already under way was evaluated, the members of the subcommissions, headed by former minister John Agudelo Rios, president of the peace and verification commission, sent a document to the head of state. The subcommissions met at the national capital headquarters for the Colombian Congress. In this document the members of the subcommissions have asked the president to reorganize the dialogue process and that Defense Minister General Miguel Vega Uribe resign from office.

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES U.S. AID SUSPENSION

PY061322 Lima Radioprogramas del Peru in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Alan Wagner has made it clear that the suspension of the U.S. military and economic aid to Peru will be lifted once the payment of the $123,000 that Peru owes is made. Wagner stated that this is just a temporary suspension that has not affected our diplomatic relations in the least.

[Begin Wagner recording] It is important to take two points into consideration. On the one hand, as shown by experience in Peru and other Latin American countries, the term amendment has been necessarily regarded as a punitive law. Within the U.S. legal system, an amendment is a piece of legislation that is introduced into a law. This is indicated by the term amendment itself. Therefore, not every quote amendment unquote is a sanction. In this case, the U.S. foreign aid law several years ago included a [words indistinct] in which it is established that when a nation falls in arrears of the interest payments on the principal of credits granted under the foreign aid law, that is, 1 year after those payments are collectible, the disbursements for projects financed under the foreign aid law are suspended. This does not mean that the foreign aid to Peru has been cut off. Neither does it mean that a punitive amendment or a sanction has been applied to us. This is part of the U.S. legal procedure. What has occurred here is a temporary suspension of foreign aid disbursements, and these disbursements will be resumed as soon as the cause of the suspension of the disbursements no longer exists.

Therefore, from the public's viewpoint, it is important to know that an amendment is not necessarily a sanction, but a piece of U.S. legislation that is introduced into an existing law. On the other hand, there has not been a cutoff in the foreign aid to Peru. What has taken place is a temporary suspension of the disbursements, which will be normally resumed as soon as the cause of the suspension no longer exists. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Alan Wagner also said that President Alan Garcia Perez will announce the names of the new Peruvian ambassadors in due time.

AIR FORCE CHIEF VIEWS REDUCED MIRAGE PURCHASES

PY022355 Lima Radio del Pacifico in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Aug 85

[Text] Peruvian Air Force Commander General Cesar Enrico Praelli has said studies are underway to determine how many Mirage airplanes are going to be dropped from the purchase contract with the Frency manufacturing company. After these studies, negotiations with the manufacturers will continue, he said. The Peruvian Government had agreed to buy 26 Mirage planes. However, President Alan Garcia announced in his inaugural speech that the Peruvian Air Force will have to buy fewer Mirages because of the country's bad economic situation, which calls for a reduction in the weapons budget.

PIP COLONEL LINKED TO MONEY EXCHANGE MARKET

PY021619 Paris AFP in Spanish 2151 GMT 1 Aug 85

[Text] Lima, 1 Aug (AFP) -- Official spokesmen today reported that the arrest of about 300 Peruvian foreign currency street vendors, who had created a real black or tolerated dollar market, allegedly has uncovered scandalous participation by heads of the plainclothes police in the money exchange market.

Colonel Leonel Zevallos, chief of the Criminal Department of the PIP (Peruvian Investigative Police), has been dismissed from his position and replaced by Jorge Bedregal Cornejo for being connected with one of the 60 money exchange shops operating in this capital, it has been explained.

In a roundup that started on 30 July, three of the arrested money changers confessed that the 381 million soles and $850 found in their possession belonged to the "One Dollar" money exchange shop, of which Zevallos was one of the shareholders. Belisario Subauste, secretary to Interior Minister Abel Salinas, has confirmed the information and told a local newspaper that the first investigations showed that the street money changers are hired by a total of 60 exchange shops spread throughout Lima and whose owners are high PIP officials.

WEAPONS CACHE FOUND ABOARD PERUVIAN SHIP

PY052124 Paris AFP in Spanish 1615 GMT 4 Aug 85

[Text] Lima, 4 Aug (AFP) -- Police spokesmen today reported that a shipment of guns and ammunition of still unkown origin was discovered by the police in one of the holds of the ship Palma belonging to the Peruvian Steamship Company, moored in the neighboring port of Callao, on the Pacific. The antidrug police, who were looking for cocaine, found 600 grams of cocaine hydrychloride aboard several days ago. Yesterday they found an "arms arsenal": machine guns, rifles, boxes of ammunition, bazookas, and hand grenades, the source explained.

The shipment, coming from somewhere in the Orient, had been laid on some Caribbean port and was packed in cardboard boxes and stored in the crew's quarters. The ship's last port was Arica, Chile, it was explained. Although the investigations are being conducted sedretly, it leaked out that the captian and the whole crew are being questioned by the Antiterrorist Directorate (Dircote), to find out the exact origin of the guns and determine if they were to be used for subversive actions. The guns were handed over to the Navy and it was recalled that about 4 months ago a similar case occurred in Callao port, when an arms shipment intended for subversives was found on board the Italian ship Egizia.

LIMA BUS DRIVERS STRIKE TO PROTEST TICKET SYSTEM

PY061946 Paris AFP in Spanish 2230 GMT 5 Aug 85

[Text] Lima, 5 Aug (AFP) -- Lima Councilman Manuel Cerda today reported that around 300 buses were stoned and prevented from operating in Lima at the start of a 48-hour bus strike. He stated that the Armed Forces command will implement an emergency transportation plan on 7 August using military buses to partly compensate for the lack of public transportation in this capital of more than 6 million inhabitants.

The strike has been called by the Peruvian Federation of Drivers to protest the obligatory use of bus tickets imposed by the Lima municipality. Lima is not completely without transportation, but in the areas were striking drivers are demonstrating, commuters are forced to travel either in private cars or on trucks. The bus ticket system has been imposed by the Marxist mayor of Lima, Alfonso Barrantes, in order to obtain income from ticket sales, Official charges against the bus drivers accuse them of not paying their taxes, not obeying regulations and thus turning passenger transportation into a real turmoil, and mistreating passengers.

President Alan Garcia sided with Barrantes' position a few days ago by announcing that public transportaiton will be cleaned up with the aid of the government.

SANGUINETTI RETURNS FROM 4-NATION TOUR

PY070226 Paris AFP in Spanish 0205 GMT 7 Aug 85

[Text] Montevideo, 6 Aug (AFP) -- President Julio Maria Sanguinetti returned to Montevideo tonight after an 11-day South American tour through Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, and Bolivia. Sanguinetti and his retinue, made up of representatives of all the political groups of his country, arrived at Carrasco International Airport accompanied by Sanguinetti's Argentine counterpart Raul Alfonsin, with whom he attended the inauguration of Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro. Alfonsin bid farewell to the Uruguayan president from his plane and continued his trip to Buenos Aires. Sanguinetti was welcomed by major government officials and immediately reassumed him presidential post, which for alomst 2 weeks has been delegated to Vice President Enrique Tarigo. It has been officially reported that President Sanguinetti will address the nation tomorrow to report on the meeting he held during his trip.

EXPORT INCOME MAY BE USED TO PAY DEBT INTEREST

PY061500 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2146 GMT 1 Aug 85

[By Alberto Pepe Leira]

[Text] Montevideo, 1 Aug (EFE) -- It was learned today from financial circles in Montevideo that Uruguayan Government experts are studying the possibility of allocating 20 percent of the income from exports to the payment of the interest on the foreign debt. This information was disclosed shortly after the reactions to new Peruvian President Alan Garcia's announcement that his country will only allocate 10 percent of the income from exports to servicing the Peruvian foreign debt. Uruguayan Government economists believe it is feasible to offer the international creditors this alternative.

Economy Minister Ricardo Zerbino and Central Bank President Ricardo Pascale recently returned to the country after renegotiating the Uruguayan foreign debt with the U.S. and European private creditors. The two government officials made noncommittal statements but confirmed that the amortization date had been extended until 30 September. In July, Uruguay obtained a 90-day moratorium on the payment of the portion of its debt falling due this year, while new payment formulas were to be analyzed.

According to an official report issued by the Central Bank today, the Uruguayan gross foreign debt totaled $4.626 billion on 31 March 1985. Of this total, $1,410,500,00 is owed by the private sector and $3,215,500,000 by the public sector. The Central Bank report also stated that on 31 March $591.1 million was due for payment, and that $502.9 million will fall due in 1986. During a recent press conference, Planning Director Ariel Davrieux said that in 1985 Uruguay has to pay $400 million in servicing its foreign debt. This year, Uruguay's income amounted to a little over $1 billion, half of which is used to purchase oil. Uruguayan exports are declining this year. During the first months of the year, they shrank more than $75 million. In 5 months, meat exports, Uruguay's main source for generating currency, dropped 41.6 percent. According to official reports of the National Meat Institute, this drop in meat exports represents a 39.7-percent drop in currency income. This year Uruguay will increase its wool production by 10 percent. This is another product that generates currency. Uruguayan wool has a firm market but, according to wool producers, its price will drop by 10 percent. After meat and wool, touism is the next most important currency generator. Ninety percent of the people arriving in Uruguay come from Argentina but, in view of the Argentine economic situation, there is not much hope for the next tourist season. Last year during the summer season the tourist flow netted Uruguay $300 million.

LUSINCHI SENDS CONDOLENCES ON BURNHAM DEATH

PA070410 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Aug 85

[Condolence message from President Jaime Lusinchi on the death of Guyanese President Linden Forbes Burnham; date not given -- read by reporter Walter Ramirez]

[Text] Mr Desmond Hoyte

President, Cooperative Republic of Guyana

Georgetown

On behalf of the people and government of Venezuela and on my behalf, I express our deepest sympathy for the loss of His Excellency Linden Forbes Burnham, president of the Republic of Guyana.

We are aware of what the loss of a man with exceptional intellectual and human qualities, which were evident throughout a brilliant career and outstanding political leadership contributing in a decisive manner to the process of independence of his country, represents for the people of Guyana. The Venezuelans also regret the loss of a leader who was always willing to maintain and develop a friendly relationship with Venezuela based on dialogue, understanding, and mutual respect.

The loss of such a distinguished man, a man with a tendency that undoubtedly represents an important contribution to the history of the continent is regretably a loss for the institutional community, especially for the brother countries of the Caribbean.

At this difficult moment, the people of Venezuela join in the grief of the Guyanese people and reiterate their solidarity with the certainty that the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries will continue to strengthen.

I would appreciate if Your Excellency would present this expression of condolence to the family of President Burnham.

[Signed] Jaime Lusinchi

President, Republic of Venezuela

PRESIDENT VIEWS DIALOGUE, CARTEGENA MEETING

PA061930 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 Aug 85

[Text] In an impromptu press conference today, President Ardito Barletta referred to the national dialogue, his trip to Cartagena on Sunday, and the possibility of a meeting of Latin American presidents in our country in the near future.

[Begin recording] [Ardito Barletta] Too much publicity has been given to the national dialogue. There are certain issues that need to be discussed among the parties without fear that every phrase one utters might be publicly misconstrued. Of course, there are problems of rapprochement among the various sectors participating in the national dialogue, problems which need to be gradually resolved by generating sufficient confidence. We are sure that as they reach agreements among themselves, the participants will continue the dialogue and negotiations on the diagnosis of our problems and a strategy to resolve them.

The national government has a well-publicized strategy, but the important issue is to increase discussion of that strategy to enrich it, vary it, expand it, and turn it into a strategy of consensus with the contribution of other sectors. In addition, dialogue and negotiation must continue with the various sectors about specific problems related to the area's development.

I am going to Cartagena for a few hours on Sunday, at the invitation of President Belisario Betancur, with whom I have a good friendship that reflects the cordiality existing between the peoples of Colombia and Panama. President Sanguinetti of Uruguay will also be present. To a certain extent, it will be a follow-up discussion of the subjects that we examined last week in Lima, Peru.

All of us on the continent are concerned about our people's state of development. We are concerned about the need to generate new jobs for the population joining the work force in each one of our countries. We are concerned about the international economic situation that at times does not allow us to increase our exports to the levels necessary to satisfy our needs. We are concerned about the management of the foreign debt. Thus, these are topics we discussed in recent meetings and which we will continue to discuss at the Cartagena meeting.

[Unidentified reporter] What would be a viable date for Panama if a summit of Latin American presidents did take place?

[Ardito Barletta] The date should be decided by all of the presidents of America. Thus, I believe that it is neither practical nor advantageous for me to suggest a date. The important thing is to seek a consensus among all of the presidents of Latin America on the advisability of holding such a meeting, because that is what will make the meeting a success.

I have said previously that a meeting of this type, which generates great expectations in our peoples, must be very carefully planned, and must include preliminary meetings of foreign ministers and other officials to draft cooperation agreements among our countries for implementation after the presidents' summit. Therefore, more important than the date is the development of a consensus to hold an effective meeting, and for concrete actions to result from it that will allow us to expand what every country is already doing to help its people, with greater cooperation from all Latin America, internally, as well as externally, in order to make solid proposals to the international community that are worthy of its support. [end recording]

MINISTRY PROTESTS CANAL COMMISSION 'DISCOURTESY'

PA061611 Panama City STAR AND HEARLD in English 6 Aug 85 pp 1, a 6

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Relations has lodged a formal complaint with the Panama Canal Commission over what officials branded as "an unpardonable discourtesy" committed with Panama's deputy foreign minister during the last session of the Panama Canal Commission Board of Directors.

According to an official source, prior to the July 24 session, the Panama Canal Commission was informed that Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Maria Cabrera would attend, in representation of the executive branch. Ministry officials were assured that the deputy minister would receive treatment according to his high rank, and would be provided a seat at the main table.

"It, therefore, turned out to be very disagreeable for our representatives to find out that at the start of the sessions, the deputy foreign minister was relegated to a seat alongside our technical team, and that his seat at the main table was reserved for a Mr Richard Holwill, invited to the session by chairman William Gianelli, under the pretext that he would be replacing John Bushnell as a U.S. team member on the Board," the official source said.

"Our government is now demanding a satisfactory explanation on the incident, which should not be attributed to involuntary error, since we are quite aware of how careful and diligent PCC personnel are on matters of protocol," the complaint read in part.

The Panama team is also voicing its disapproval over the number of chairs assigned to its members.

"While Panama Canal Commission personnel were assigned 24 seats, only 12 were assigned to Panama's representatives, a distribution that does not represent a clear reflection of fairness," the official complaint read.

CONATO PROPOSES DEMONSTRATION FOR 8 AUGUST

PA052006 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 3 Aug 85 p 1

[Text] During a press conference yesterday, Conato [National Council of Organized Workers] proposed a demonstration for 8 August and short-term measures to resolve the current national economic crisis. The group also called on the president of the Republic to convoke a meeting of Latin American presidents in Panama.

Conato spokesmen said that they are organizing a demonstration for 8 August that will depart from the Porras Park at 1600 and head for the Presidency of the Republic, where a document explaining the group's stand will be presented.

Conato representatives also said that a meeting in Santa Ana will follow the demonstration at the presidency. They said that various topics of interest to the country at large will be discussed there.

An objective of the 8 August demonstration is to ask "the national government to convoke a meeting of Latin American and Caribbean countries in Panama to adopt decisions at the continental level to achieve regional economic integration, a new international economic order, foreign debt [as published], and a change in the international monetary system."

COSTA RICA

VENEZUELA TO HELP IN EVENT OF AGGRESSION

PA061502 Paris AFP in Spanish 1435 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Text] San Jose, 6 Aug (AFP) -- President Luis Alberto Monge announced in San Jose today that the Venezuelan Government has promised to provide aid to Costa Rica in the event of a military aggression. Monge reported that Costa Rican Security Minister Benjamin Piza and Government Minister Enrique Obregon traveled to Caracas over the weekend on a "confidential mission related to the country's security needs." Although he refused to give details, the Costa Rican president said: "We can be sure that Venezuela is with us."

Information Minister Armando Vargas said that Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi recently warned Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez that "Costa Rica must not be touched." Vargas also said that the Lusinchi government ignored former President Carlos Andres Perez' request that Venezuela ask Costa Rica to accept a dialogue with Nicaragua without conditions. Two weeks ago, Costa Rica announced that it will only participate in a dialogue if the Sandinist government apologizes for the 31 May Las Crucitas border incident, which claimed the lives of two Costa Rican civil guardsmen.

GOVERNMENT DENIES REQUESTING OAS OBSERVERS

FL062129 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2025 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Text] San Jose, 6 Aug (NOTIMEX) -- Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has categorically denied that Costa Rica has formally requested the OAS to station a team of observers on the Nicaraguan border on a permament basis. He said there probably was a misunderstanding from OAS Undersecretary Valerie McComie's part and that of an international news agency, about a report released here last week saying Costa Rica was going to request the assignment of observers.

He explained that last weekend, the Costa Rican Government promised the Contadora deputy foreign ministers to wait for the results of the mediation efforts made by this peace group, which is presently touring all Central American countries. He asserted, however, that if the Contadora Group deputy foreign ministers' efforts are not successful, next week Costa Rica will formally request the inter-American organ to station observers. He reiterated that Nicaragua apologize and explain to the Costa Rican Government about the recent border incidents, in particular, the assassination of two civil guardsmen in Las Crucitas last May and the invasion of Costa Rican airspace by Sandinist airplanes on 26 July.

He said this type of inaccurate information, like the one released in Washington about the alleged Costa Rican formal request, contributes to the distorted impression prevailing in international circles about Central American problems. He stressed that in many diplomatic circles the regional crisis is perceived as a result of U.S. aggression against Nicaragua and do not see Nicaragua's aggression against neighbor countries.

He underscored the fact that Costa Rica needs a better understanding from the international community, and this is why the government is going to undertake a more aggresive diplomatic policy to show the reality of Nicaragua's aggression against neighboring countries, particularly Costa Rica.

MINISTER REITERATES GOVERNMENT STAND ON TALKS

PA061915 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 5 Aug 85

[Text] Journalist Armando Vargas, information and communications minister, belives that Commander Daniel Ortega's reply to President Monge's letter has been the object of a propaganda campaign launched by the Nicaraguan regime. He said that President Monge has not yet received Ortega's reply. When consulted on this, he said:

[Begin recording] The way this case is being handled reflects a very popular means of political communication, because before the addressee of a message receives it, that message is revealed to everyone via news agencies and paid press publications. It seems as though it is not a letter addressed to the president of the Republic of Costa Rica, but a piece of propaganda first exploited for propaganda reasons and then finally delivered to the addressee to see whether he has anything to say about its content. [end recording]

Minister Vargas also said that this weekend, President Monge received several phone calls from Latin American political personalities interested in finding formulas to ease the tension with Nicaragua. The minister said:

[Begin recording] This weekend, the president received phone calls from Latin American political personalities inviting him to reconsider the possibility of Costa Rica attending a round of talks with Nicaragua before 10 August in Panama as convoked by the foreign ministers of Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela, who met on Contadora Island. The firm stand of the president of the Republic is the same as previously announced: That no negotiations will take place as long as Nicaragua does not satisfy the essential requirements specified by Costa Rica, the most important of which is a formal apology from the Nicaraguan Government. [end recording]

The head of state said that he met with former Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and Panamanian President Nicolas Ardito Barletta. President Monge reiterated to the former Venezuelan president Costa Rica's firm stand regarding a formal apology from the Managua regime for the attack at Las Crucitas. In addition, the government spokesman said that Costa Rica is demanding an apology for violations on our national territory and on the neutrality proclaimed by our country.

EL SALVADOR

GUERRILLA ATTEMPT TO OCCUPY SUCHITOTO REPELLED

PA062316 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2246 GMT 6 Aug 85

[By Pablo Antonio Ayala]

[Text] San Salvador, 6 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- Early this morning Salvadoran guerrilla columns tried to occupy Suchitoto, a city with a population of 30,000 located northeast of San Salvador. The rebels kept the city surrounded until the Salvadoran Army dispatched reinforcements. The Salvadoran Army reported that four national guardsmen were wounded during a clash on the outskirts of La Villa.

The Armed Forces Press Committee (COPREFA) reported that the situation in Suchitoto was brought under control with the arrival of reinforcement troops and with the support of the Salvadoran Air Force.

However, fighting continues in some neighborhoods of "Martyr City," as the city is now called because of the many attacks it has suffered during the 5 years of internal struggle in El Salvador.

Military sources said that they did not know the number of casualties suffered by the FMLN during the fighting, which lasted more than 5 hours. The sources added that the insurgents were not able to enter the city. Suchitoto, a city where five Army posts have been established, has never been completely occupied by the guerrillas. COPREFA said that the heaviest fighting was reported in the eastern sector of the city where National Guard patrols clashed with FMLN columns that were caught off guard as they were marauding the outskirts of Suchitoto.

A majority of the Suchitoto residents, located in Cuscatlan Department, 44 km from San Salvador, make their living in agriculture.

According to the report, the Salvadoran Army has continued to carry out several anti-guerrilla operations in Chalatenango, Usulutan, San Miguel, and Morazan Departments where several clashes between the Army and the rebels have been reported in the past few days. The results of these clashes are not known.

Clandestine Radio Venceremos said today that during the clashes reported in the southern area of Usulutan Department, in eastern El Salvador, the FMLN inflicted four casualties on the specialized Atonal Battalion.

The clashes were reported in the jurisdiction of Jucuaran, 90 km southeast of San Salvador, where an Army operation began several months ago.

FMLN REPORTS ARMY CASUALTIES IN SUCHITOTO ATTACK

PA070209 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 7 Aug 85

[Text] On Tuesday, 6 August, guerrillas of the Carlos Arias Battalion attacked positions of the criminal National Guard on the outskirts of Suchitoto during the morning hours. In this attack, guerrillas inflicted five casualties on the enemy including an Army lieutenant, two radio operators, and two policemen. We have received reports that our men withdrew in an orderly fashion and without any trouble after fulfilling their mission. These are the preliminary reports on the attack on National Guard positions in Suchitoto.

We have also learned that the dictatorship's troops suffered so much demoralization in Suchitoto and the High Command is so worried that after our guerrillas had withdrawn, the High Command carried out a costly, spectacular, and ineffective deployment of men, airplanes, and helicopters in the Suchitoto area. The enemy troops demoralization and the High Command's concern over this attack on the National Guard fringe positions in Suchitoto was such that hours after our men had withdrawn from the area, the officers in charge of the Duarte troops continued indiscriminate fire. Machine guns fired at random, and howitzers and mortars also fired -- who knows in what direction. The Air Force deployed a number of aircraft and thousands of men were mobilized in a demonstration of complete demoralization and the ineffectiveness of the High Command. However, something was clear. While the dictatorship's forces spent thousands of dollars in ammunition, shrapnel, rockets, and howitzer shells, the only clear thing for the reporters who arrived at the scene was that the demoralized Armed Forces aimlessly fired their weapons into the air while the dictatorship suffered casualties in Suchitoto including a lieutenant, two radio operators, and two policemen. In addition, the Suchitoto garrison was left isolated, without communications, and electricity and telephone services were interrupted. This is the state of the puppet Army's morale.

FMLN'S COMMANDER HANDAL INTERVIEWED ON DIALOGUE

PA060109 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 5 Aug 85

[Interview with Commander Jorge Shafick Handal, member of the FMLN General Command, by unidentified questioner; date, place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Commander Handal, engineer Duarte has been hesitant concerning our proposal for a third dialogue meeting. What motive could he have for adopting such a position?

[Handal] Rather than hesistant, I would say it is a deliberate attitude to block the initiative. Naturally, he cannot openly block such a proposal. For that reason, he poses a number of conditions and requirements for a dialogue procedure, as well as its content, giving the impression that favors the dialogue. That is why his position is interpreted as hesitant. It is necessary for the Salvadoran people and the international community to be clearly informed regarding what this is all about. I will try to provide a slightly more detailed explanation.

In the latter part of June in response to questions from members of the U.S. Chanber of Commerce, at an emotional moment of his intervention, and in defense of his dialogue policy, which was being questioned, Napoleon Duarte said that those gentlemen had to realize that the dialogue was playing a decisive role in obtaining the bipartisan support of the U.S. Congress for military and economic aid. Concerning the dialogue, he also said that he had prepared a strategy to corner the FMLN with the topic of humanization. He explained his idea of humanization from which it could be derived that to him to humanize the war meant to suppress the FMLN sabotage. Thus, he combined his strategy and allegations before those opposed to the dialogue.

It was also evident what Duarte intended to do; that is, to show his apparent support for the dialogue and to disarm the FMLN through the dialogue. However, he knows that cannot be; therefore, he adopted the apparent disposition to dialogue to justify his request for the support of the U.S. Congress. To Duarte, dialogue means weapons and dollars. He is supported in this by all those pressed for more weapons and more dollars to continue the mad race to (?destruction) in which the ranking military and government officials are engaged.

This game being played by Napoleon Duarte using the dialogue is also intended to deceive the Salvadoran people and the people of the United States as well as the international public by maintaining a position while playing for time within which, according to his U.S. advisers, it could be possible to advance militarily in the war against us. Time and again this hope to militarily advance against our forces has been frustrated. COPREFA, the government, the U.S. advisers and the U.S. ambassador, the State Department, and the Defense Department -- with the frequent changes in plans they have been forced to make once their previous plans have been frustrated by the FMLN -- engage in a widespread publicity campaign claiming historic advances against us and so on. All of this lasts only the time we need to reorganize our plans and retaliate. As soon as we respond to the enemy plans and the FMLN begins to tear them apart, they first remain silent then proceed to reorganize their propaganda.

Nevertheless, under the illusion that the U.S. military power is behind all this, Duarte and other elements of the regime stumble again and again on the same phenomenon: trying to build up hopes through propaganda and the idea that they are winning the war and, based on this they proceed to accommodate their policy and the handling of the dialogue.

[Question] Commander, what is the present status of a possible third dialogue meeting between the government and our fronts?

[Handal] We have made several proposals to Duarte for a third dialogue meeting before and after the elections. At first, he delayed things; once he had prepared his scheme, he began giving answers which in fact constitute a blockade. For example, he insists that the dialogue should be private, claiming that in private it will be possible to reach an understanding that cannot be accomplished in public. It all lacks seriousness.

However, what is actually the real aim of a private dialogue proposal? This is fully contained within the scheme of what he calls the dialogue strategy, to which I have already referred. In other words, a public dialogue would quickly reveal the hypocrisy of his dialogue position. His position is so fragile that it would be promptly broken by the mere confrontation of positions, by the dialogue itself. The national and international public would be in a position to reach their own conclusions. I repeat: His poistion is most fragile and would be revealed quickly with the consequences he himself has already stressed in his dialogue with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce which are most harmful to the possible bipartisan support of the U.S. Congress. Therefore, it is necessary to maintain the image and the privacy of the dialogue as part of that tactic, as it not only permits him to hide his true position but it allows him to take the offensive and accuse us of being responsible for the failure of such a dialogue, which is not intended to advance toward a just political solution of the conflict.

This brings us to another aspect of the positions. When Duarte says that humanization must be the objective of the dialogue; in other words, he is merely eluding the global nature of the problem of the war, the problem of the national crisis. He wants to place himself in a position where he can use demagoguery, as he calls humanization the suppression of the FMLN sabotage.

In this respect, we must first point out that the use of demagoguery is nothing new in Duarte's style to appear as an angel of justice and peace when he is actually preparing to bless, rather to make new stabs at the backs of the Salvadoran people. He wants to handle the dialogue in the same manner in which he handles the issue of the commission for the struggle against corruption, the commission to investigate political crimes, the reforms to the judiciary branch, and the agrarian reform. All of the above have been ways to justify a policy of betrayal of the people's essential interests, of submission to U.S. imperialism, and of massacres through the support of the death squads and so forth. On the issue of the death squads, we should mention that for the Salvadoran people and the international public it is easy to obtain more information on the position of Duarte's regime concerning the death squads merely by asking where they are keeping the arrested members of said squads. There are none. When it was necessary to obtain partisan support, the government agreed to punish some guards who actually were not responsible for the attempt on the nuns. That is the way he handles things. As far as Napoleon Duarte is concerned, the dialogue now requires such handling.

What do we say about the agrarian reform? We leave that response to the peasants who refer to it every day on the streets. They are quite aware of the alleged agrarian reform.

Now, the current topic of discussion is the judiciary branch reform because it is a target of attack by the critics of Duarte's regime in the United States. For many years, everyone has known that our judiciary system has been unjust and totally adapted to the service of the dictatorship. Now, in view of some voices raised in the U.S. Congress during the debate over economic and military aid, the issue has been included in the agenda for amendment. It is because of this issue that the Duarte regime has engaged in the handling of the dialogue. Naturally, we will not lend ourselves to that.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a few things in order to clarify our position concerning the dialogue. We are clearly in favor of seeking a negotiated political solution that will bring a just peace to the Salvadoran people. We do not view the dialogue and the negotiations as a way out if this problem for us, the revolutionaries.

We realize that the process of dialogue and negotiation cannot be automatic and instantaneous. It is not a matter of meeting and agreeing on everything. In this context, we have said -- although we have submitted a fully, global proposal for a solution -- that we favor the discussion of other issues. We have said that we are willing to discuss other issues that may lead to the humanization of the conflict. We have proposed specific aspects. Duarte, as I said a while ago, establishes an absolute similarity between the humanization and suppression of the FMLN sabotage activities. We do not accept that. Why? Because we are waging a popular war. We do not have access to the same weapons that the Army has; we also do not have access to its technology or its financing. Our war is popular. At crucial moments such as this, the people resort to everything they may have at their reach, not at what they cannot have. In all popular wars, sabotage is one of their weapons. It is one of the most popular weapons of the people in their struggle. Its use is legitimate, completely and absolutely legitimate. Therefore, if we are asked to renounce sabotage on behalf of humanization or on behalf of something other than a fair solution, it would be the same as asking us to disarm ourselves, and this we will not do.

Are we willing to discuss sabotage and negotiate? Yes, we are. However, that can only be done within the context of the global solution of the war. In other words, the counterpart must also renounce their weapons. We are not asking the counterpart to renounce their weapons for the sake of humanization. Thus they cannot ask us to renounce our weapons for the sake of humanization. One thing must be clear and that is that we are not going to accept that situation. In fact, neither the government nor Yankee imperialism has the power to force us to accept that, neither through a discussion or by force.

Now we ask: Perhaps, is it that Duarte, his U.S. advisers, or supporters think we are going to renounce such a strategic weapon of the popular war in exchange for a label saying we are humanistic people? No, we are not. That is the essence of the issue. They know they cannot. They know our position; therefore, they want to cripple the dialogue in this way.

This is the kind of game they are playing, and this is what we must appraise. I call on everyone to think about this and also to appraise our demands for a public dialogue. We have nothing to hide; our position is very fair from every standpoint: from the historical, social, political, as well as from the moral and ethical standpoints. It is for this reason that we do not fear an open discussion of our position and not only with the government. On several occasions we have suggested that all of the national sectors be included in the discussion of this issue. One of the agreements reached at La Palma was to promote and hold a national dialogue. Duarte has turned his back on this agreement, and he is only speaking of a private dialogue. He is not willing to be heard or seen by all the sectors in the country and is less willing to have them participate in the dialogue.

We are sure of our position because of the fairness of our cause. We want a public dialogue. We are willing to hear the position of all the sectors because it is not fair to only hear two sides. Everyone should be heard. They say that we do not represent the people. This is all part of their propaganda. Therefore, we say to them: Let us hold a dialogue and you will hear the loud voices of the people. However, the other national sectors must also be heard. [16-second pause]

This bit of publicity or privacy is not merely a formality, not a procedure as Duarte has tried to demonstrate. It involves the fairness and legitimacy of each of the causes; that is, it is a matter of substance. However, we have been flexible and we have said -- and this we proposed to Duarte -- that we are willing to hold private talks in preparation for the real dialogue that must be an open one. We have not closed our eyes to the government's position regarding the conveniences of a private dialogue. We find use and see convenineces in a private dialogue, but only as a procedure so we said that we would be willing to hold such a meeting but in preparation for the open dialogue. We believe this is necessary for the dialogue to be what it should be: a face the people dialogue. A preliminary meeting is necessary to establish the procedures for the meeting.

Therefore, we are not inflexible, as they are trying to portray us. The truth is that Duarte is not only inflexible, he is even worse. He has taken a step backward. He challenged us -- challenge was the word he used -- to participate in the meeting at La Palma. It seems he was betting that we would not show up. He did not think we would show up. Therefore, he challenged us by telling us that the dialogue would be public, open to the Salvadoran people and the foreign press. He made this statement at the United Nations. Today, he is the one retreating. It seems that he did not realize what he was doing; he was blinded by a single issue. He thought he was going to give us a political blow because, according to him, we would not accept such a dialogue and under such conditions. He was not and is still not clear about what kind of an enemy he is confronting. He had no idea of the interests and values we represent. It seems as though he is under the impression that this is some kind of game that can be resolved by playing at it, deceiving, speaking, and traveling from one country to another. By traveling and making speeches he says that he is going to improve the government's prestige. He thinks that he is very smart and that he can deceive and corner us like he told the gentlemen of the American Chamber of Commerce.

FMLN ON OPERATIONS ALONG NORTHERN TRUNK HIGHWAY

PA070419 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 7 Aug 85

[Text] Attention. Radio Venceremos has received the following report: The troops of the distressed Ochoa have sustained 11 casualties on the Northern Trunk Highway. The report indicates that today, Tuesday, 6 August, FMLN guerrilla forces ambushed troops of the Azmitia Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade, on the Northern Trunk Highway in El Barrancon. The reinforcements for the troops of the distressed Ochoa were also attacked. During this action on the Northern Trunk Highway, 11 casualties -- dead and wounded -- were inflicted on the dictatorship's forces.

Other guerrilla activities were also carried out in the country's central region. The FMLN controls the Northern Trunk Highway, the route on which the guerrilla strikes against the puppet Army's deployments have multiplied. New ambushes on the dictatorship have been reported. Your close attention, please.

On Sunday, 4 August, and FMLN guerrilla unit successfully ambushed troops of the Duartist dictatorship on the Northern Trunk Highway at El Salitre inflicting on them 10 casualties, including dead and wounded. Ten more casualites were sustained by the troops of the distressed Ochoa, who has been totally defeated. The operations of Ochoa and the High Command in the central region have ended in a military disaster. The FMLN remains operational. It has continued the ambushes and revolutionary actions in that central area of the country.

Your attention, please. Here are further reports. Another ambush was laid on the Northern Trunk Highway. Your attention. Another ambush occurred on the Norhtern Trunk Highway, the third in the last few hours.

On Monday, 5 August, FMLN guerrilla forces laid a successful ambush on troops of the dictatorship at the place known as (El Jardin), on the Northern Trunk Highway, inflicting four casualties on the dictatorship's forces. This is the third ambush on the northern Trunk Highway, which remains under the control of our revolutionary forces, during the last few hours.

HONDURAN ARMY REPORTEDLY KILLS SALVADORAN CITIZEN

PA062206 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Text] Attention, high attention. We have another report. Much attention: Honduran troops murdered a Salvadoran citizen. Attention: Honduran Army troops murdered a Salvadoran citizen in the El Salvador-Honduran border area. A report states that on 2 August [as heard] 46-year-Old Escolastico Argueta Argueta, a native of Jocoaitique and a resident of Pueblo Viejo, Perquin jurisdiction, was murdered by Honduran troops on Tuesday, 30 June. We repeat: Escolastico Argueta Argueta, 46, was murdered on Tuesday, 30 June, by Honduran troops in the vicinity of Las Flores, Colomoncagua jurisdiction, Honduras, approximately 250 meters from Honduran territory. Argueta was murdered at 1500 on 30 June; he left seven orphans. The report also states that Argueta's body had 10 FAL rifle wounds fired by Honduran Army troops.

GUATEMALA

PA061934 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0300 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Text] Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran said today that the Contadora Group foreign ministers are touring the Central American area in an effort to revive the actions of the Contadora Group -- which are being kept alive artifically -- through the cooperation of countries like Guatemala. The foreign ministers are about to arrive in Guatemala, the foreign minister announced.

[Begin recording] Yes, as has been officially announced by the Panamanian Foreign Ministry, the Contadora Group deputy foreign ministers will be arriving in Guatemala City tomorrow. They have already visited San Jose, Costa Rica, and yesterday they visited Managua. They are gathering observations on the Contadora act, which has been under discussion for 1 year now by the five Central American governments. We have taken due note of the statements made by Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez, who has proposed that the plenipotentiary delegates remain permanently in session in order to discuss the various aspects, particularly the issue of security, which is still pending. [end recording]

The Guatemalan foreign minister then referred to the conditions imposed by Costa Rica in the face of the Nicaraguan aggressions.

[Begin recording] Prior to their participation in future conversations at this level, the Costa Rican Government would like for the Nicaraguan Government to present excuses for the incidents of 1 month ago, especially for the most recent one, which they claim was due to an air space violation into their territory. We are trying to gather all the information we can on these incidents, and Guatemala is going to listen very attentively to the proposals that the Contadora deputy foreign ministers will bring with them. [end recording]

While the Contadora Group talks, Nicaraguans and Salvadorans continue dying in the biggest internal war ever in Central America.

GUERRILLA ATTACK ON OIL FIELD FOILED BY ARMY

PA061946 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0300 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Text] For the second time in 1 month, the guerrillas have attacked oil fields in the northern party of the country. The first attack was relatively successful while the second one was foiled, according to a military report. Army spokesman, Col Marco Antonio Castellano, today gave the following details:

[Begin recording] In the municipality of Potun, El Peten Department, subversive terrorists tried to seize an oil field on a place known as Ocultun, but their action was foiled by the workers. A military patrol was in the area repelled the attack, during which one soldier and one guerrilla were killed. [end recording]

CAN NOMINATES MARIO DAVID GARCIA FOR PRESIDENT

PA062009 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0300 GMT 5 Aug 85

[Excerpt] The Nationalist Authentic Central, CAN, has proclaimed the presidential nomination of Mario David Garcia during a national convention held today Sunday with the participation of over 4,000 persons at the Cine Real, the largest movie theater in Guatemala. The CAN also nominated Carlos Molino Munquez as vice presidential candidate as well as candidates for deputies and other public posts.

UCN PROCLAIMS VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

PA062200 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0300 GMT 5 Aug 85

[Excerpt] The Union of the National Center [UCN] held its convention today in the [word indistinct] park and proclaimed Ramiro De Leon Carpio, a close relative of UCN presidential candidate Jorge Carpio Nicolle, as its vice presidential candidate.

NOMINATION OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES COMPLETED

PA062245 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2334 GMT 5 Aug 85

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 5 Aug (DPA) -- The nomination of the principal presidential and vice presidential candidates that will participate in the general elections on 3 November in Guatemala was completed this weekend.

The candidates that are given the greatest possibility for success in the elections are: journalist Jorge Carpio Nicolle and Ramiro De Leon, supported by the Union of the National Center; Mario Sandoval Alarcon and Jaime Caceres, candidates for a coalition of parties headed by the conservative National Liberation Movement; Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo and Roberto Carpio Nicolle from the moderate leftist Guatemalan Christian Democracy; and Jorge Serrano Elias and Mario Fuentes Pieruccini, supported by the alliance made up of the Democratic Party of National Cooperation and the Revolutionary Party.

The elected president will take office on 14 January 1986, ending almost 4 years of de facto military governments. In the November elections, 100 deputies to the Legislative Congress and councilmen for the country's 325 municipalities will also be elected.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA CONGRATULATES BOLIVIAN PRESIDENT-ELECT

PA061810 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Text of letter sent by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra to Bolivian President-elect Victor Paz Estenssoro, date not given -- read by announcer]

[Text] Mr President: We are pleased with your election by the Bolivian Congress as the new president of the Republic of Bolivia. I congratulate you on behalf of the Nicaraguan people and government, wishing you a successful and uninterrupted presidential term. We are sure that the friendly bonds between Bolivia and Nicaragua will continue to grow and strengthen during your term of office. We are also confident that in relation to the current Central American situation we can count on your firm support for the efforts being conducted to achieve a peaceful solution to the regional conflict.

The Nicaraguan people and Government followed the Bolivian electoral process with great interest. It showed the maturity of the Bolivian people and their firm determination to consolidate their democratic system. The Bolivian elections will be of benefit to that sister nation and to the peace and unity of our Latin American continent. The people and Government of Nicaragua send our most cordial greetings to you and to the Bolivian people.

Fraternally,

[Signed] Daniel Ortega Saavedra

ORTEGA MEETS WITH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADER

PA051333 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 5 Aug 85

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega, president of Nicaragua, and Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera have met with Aristides Calvani, former Venezuelan foreign minister and president of the Christian Democratic Organization of America, ODCA. Calvani is visiting Nicaragua to learn about the development of the revolutionary process.

[Begin Calvani recording] The Central American situation is in general very complex and difficult. I would say that its complexity tends to increase rather than decrease. I hope that the Contadora mission that is touring the Central American countries can make a positive contribution. [end recording]

ORTEGA SENDS MESSAGE TO JAPAN'S HIROHITO

PA070247 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Message from President Daniel Ortega Saavedra to Japanese Emperor Hirohito dated 6 August -- read by announcer]

[Text] His Excellency Emperor Hirohito of Tokyo, Japan

Today, 6 August, after 40 years, a moved humankind remembers the horrid atomic bombing of the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

This terrible moment in history teaches us that the efforts of those of use who, with a sense of responsibility, are firmly opposed to solutions of force and the threat of nuclear extermination must be joined. The victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki remind us that no one can determine mankind's fate. Peace is a right of all people.

Very truly yours,

[Signed] Daniel Ortega Saavedra

SERGIO RAMIREZ HOLDS HAVANA PRESS CONFERENCE

PA061627 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 5 Aug 85

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Vice President Sergio Ramirez held a press conference in Havana at the end of the foreign debt meeting in Cuba. Vice President Ramirez denounced the U.S. military presence:

"This is the first time in the history of military exercises that they are taking place without interruption. These continuous military exercises create objective conditions for a military intervention above all in Honduran and the previously mentioned points."

Regarding the Nicaraguan foreign debt, he said:

"After the triumph of the revolution, it obtained new credits of a different character. We can say that the revolution has been able to negotiate an additional $1.7 billion with socialist, West European, and Latin American countries. However, we can state that after the triumph of the revolution, we have not negotiated a single credit with onerous terms. The burden we have is not from the debt we obtained after the triumph which is a debt that has been invested in rational investment projects for the transformation of the economy, but from the debt obtained before the revolutionary triumph, especially the debt with private banks. With regard to the IDB, we have a right to receive credits from such organizations because we are members. However, due to the arbitrary position of the U.S. Government, which is trying to block our access to the sources of multilateral financing, the IDB president, yielding to the U.S. Government's pressures, blackmail, and threats, has refused to send to the board of directors a request for $57 million for agricultural development in Nicaragua which has fulfilled all the technical and financial requirements. He does this even though the IDB has a statute guaranteeing that it will be apolitical in the processing of credits."

Ramirez also said that with its actions, Nicaragua strengthens the Contadora Group's efforts:

"The United States has been putting on pressure so that the Contadora Group will lose its effectiveness and so it will not be successful in its peace efforts. However, I think this is the worst moment for the United States with regard to the Contadora Group. We think that the communique recently issued by the Contadora Group foreign ministers in Panama shows that the Contadora Group is experiencing its best political moment and it is taking the initiative. The communique calls for a U.S.-Nicaraguan dialogue, condemns the financing of irregular forces in Central America -- in this case the U.S. Government's financing of the terrorists who are destroying Nicaragua -- and in general calls for an agreement on the border situation between Costa Rican and Nicaragua through a mechanism that we have porposed. This has the direct and resolute support of South American countries such as Peru, Uruguay, Brazil, and Argentina."

RAMIREZ 'PLEASED' WITH FOREIGN DEBT MEETING

PA061403 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Aug 85

[Text] Managua -- Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez has said that he is pleased because the continental conference on foreign debt held in Cuba developed into a pluralist assembly. Ramirez, who headed the Nicaraguan delegation that participated in the Havana meeting, said that the consensus reached in Cuba was that the foreign debt is unpayable and irrecoverable. Ramirez added that the conference, which was closed with a speech by Cuban President Fidel Castro, was a forum at which Nicaragua clearly stated its position on the foreign debt.

MEXICO'S VALERO ON CURRENT CONTADORA TOUR

PA061543 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 5 Aug 85

[Text] Shortly before leaving Nicaragua, the Mexican under secretary of foreign relations, Ricardo Valero, said that the most positive aspect of his visit to Nicaragua was the full acceptance by this country of all of the recommendations made by the Contadora Group foreign ministers in their meeting of last 22 July. The deputy foreign ministers left this morning for Honduras. Following are the recorded statements of the Mexican foreign under secretary:

[Begin recording] [Valero] I believe that the most productive aspect of the meeting, as already registered by the press, is the acceptance by the Nicaraguan Government of all of the recommendations made last week by the foreign ministers of the Contadora Group. The recommendations contain a number of interrelated measures, and the answer of the Nicaraguan Government basically consisted of accepting in every aspect the six points contained in the communique issued by the foreign ministers after their last meeting on 22 July.

[Reporter] Will the Contadora Group efforts continue?

[Valero] We are making this tour in compliance with agreements reached on 22 July by the Contadora Group foreign ministers. As I commented a moment ago, the group is passing through a good phase, despite the difficulties and problems stemming from the regional crisis and affecting the efforts for the dialogue and negotiations, and a not too propitious climate for the development of the diplomatic efforts. Nevertheless, our tour intends to consolidate the prospects of the Contadora Group to peacefully solve the regional crisis. [end recording]

TINOCO PRAISES CONTADORA GROUP REGIONAL ROLE

PA061231 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 5 Aug 85

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco today informed the national and international press about the meeting held over the weekend with the deputy foreign ministers of the Contadora Group. He said it was highly productive as it reasserted the six-point platform of the Contadora Group. Tinoco recalled that some of the points on this platform are: continuation of the discussion of the Contadora peace document; the resumption of the bilateral dialogue between the United States and Nicaragua in Manzanillo; the need to set a specific date to begin negotiations between Costa Rica and Nicaragua in order to make progress toward the creation of a neutral security zone between the two countries; the outlining of a number of ideas conducive to detente in the area; and the announcement of Contadora's efforts through international organizations.

Deputy Foreign Minister Tinoco said that some progress was made toward putting the finishing touches on these points of the document during the meeting with his Contadora Group counterparts. He added that Nicaragua outlined some views in this regard which they said were welcome. Likewise, he said, we were briefed on some ideas proposed by the Costa Rican Government regarding the demilitarized border zone.

However, Tinoco made it clear that some reports have been distorted in order to make it seem like Costa Rica has veered away from his proposal but, as far as is known, both governments continue believing that this zone is required. What remains to be done now, Tinoco said, is to create the conditions to establish it. Let us listen to a portion of the news conference.

[Begin recording] Look, regarding the first part of your question, I am not quite familiar with the proposals [words indistinct] made by the countries of the group, of the so-called security group or bloc. However, what I wish to repeat is that, as far as we are concerned, we really have no objection to any of the six points raised by the Contadora Group. We have no objection to advancing in the discussion and the work on the six aspects, or six lines of work approved by the Contadora Group.

Now then, we do not think it is right to sideline or to try to, let us say, block some aspects because the whole idea is that we be able to make progress on all of them. In regard to the matter of the [word indistinct] role or worth of the support group (?formed) in South America, we think that it is very important. I would describe this as the most important development since the Contadora Group's creation. During the Contadora Group's lifespan of 2 and 1/2 years, the formation of this group has been the most important political and diplomatic development for the negotiation effort in Central America, and it has also been one of the most important developments in Latin American diplomacy in recent months.

Why? Because it entails a public statement by a group of South American countries with a particularly significant political and economic weight that they are willing to participate in a dynamic manner in the solution of the Central American problem, of the Central American crisis. In other words, they are not just making a decision in theoretical terms -- Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, and Peru had already done this. They are not just opting for a political, negotiated solution to the Central American problem, but they are becoming organized to participate actively and concretely in a peaceful and negotiated solution. This is the most significant development in Contadora's political life in [words indistinct]. [end recording]

TINOCO SAYS U.S. LACKS WILLINGNESS FOR SOLUTION

PA061841 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Text] In commenting on his meeting with the Contadora Group foreign ministers yesterday, Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco said today that Nicaragua contributed a number of preliminary and in-depth criteria on security aspects to improve the Contadora Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America. Tinoco also reiterated that Nicaragua supports the action plan of the six points that the foreign ministers of this pacification group drafted during their recent July meeting. He said that the Nicaraguan proposal to estsblish a security area along the Nicaragua-Costa Rican border has not failed yet. Tinoco pointed out that efforts are being made to create the necessary conditions to achieve that end. As for Nicaragua's stand on resuming the Manzanillo talks, Tinoco said that the United States lacks political willingness to peacefully negotiate a solution to the Central American crisis. Here is what he said:

[Begin recording] The problem of U.S. political willingness to resolve the Central American problem is an essential issue. Without U.S. political willingness to peacefully negotiate a solution to the Central American problem, there will be no solution. It is impossible to think about that. It is clear that at this point the United States lacks political willingness to seek a political, negotiated solution to the Central American problem. That country has continued to advocate a policy designed in 1980 and initiated in 1981; that policy is aimed at creating confrontation, destabilization, and destruction of the Nicaraguan revolution.

However, the lack of political willingness on the part of the United States does not mean that Latin America, and Contadora, the support group, will suspend their efforts, because their effort is or should be aimed at accelerating the creation of that political willingness which is nonexistent at this time. This is why the platform or the six-point plan approved by the foreign ministers is important, because some of those points are aimed at solving this problem of the lack of political willingness; this plans tries to create conditions to resolve this problem. [end recording]

VENEZUELAN LOAN TO REVOLUTION UNDER STUDY

PA060347 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1750 GMT 5 Aug 85

[Text] A Venezuelan commission, comprised of approximately 29 members, met today to analyze the possibility of increasing loans to the Nicaraguan revolution. The increase is estimated at 15 million [currency not specified]. Previously, Nicaragua received a Venezuelan credit for 9.3 million [currency not specified], but with this new credit the Venezuelan Government is trying to partially solve the trade embargo decreed against Nicaragua by the United States.

The Venezuelan delegation is led by Magaly Perez and Companera Elsa Lenco who represent the government. It is appropriate to stress that the delegation includes 26 representatives from various Venezuelan private and state-owned enterprises. It was disclosed that a new agreement has been established so that Nicaragua may obtain Venezuelan products. Nicaragua will purchase Venezuelan products within the next few days. We will provide further information on this topic later.

BRIEFS

NEW AERONICA ROUTES -- The Nicaraguan airline Aeronica today began international flights to Panama City and San Jose, Costa Rica, and inaugurated a new Panama-Miami route. According to the airline schedules, the Managua-Miami flights, with connections or transfers in Panama City, will be on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday, departing in the morning and returning in the evening. [Excerpt] [Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 6 Aug 85 PA]

CASTRO PRESS CONFERENCE AT DEBT MEETING

PA042133 Havana International Service in Spanish 1534 GMT 4 Aug 85

[Press conference by President Fidel Castro with reporters attending the Continental Dialogue on the Latin America-Caribbean Debt at Havana's Palace of Conventions--live]

[Text] [Castro] You must understand that I would have to answer 300 questions. I might be able to answer 15, 20 or perhaps a few more. It is not that I am trying to save time. Everyone has been working hard these days. Today is Sunday, and according to the commandments of the law of God, one must rest on Sundays. There have been several Sundays that nobody has rested around here. Therefore, today, I am personally doing this with pleasure, but it is important that you understand, and I know this will be difficult for reporters, because Gustavo (Lebon) did not write the phsychology of the reporters masses, he wrote the phsychology of the other masses, but not those of reporters. [laughter] Therefore, it is difficult, because everyone wants to ask a question, but you must bear in mind the fact that it is impossible for all of you to ask a question. Let's see how you distribute your questions, or how we distribute the chairmanship, but it is important that we explain this. [laughter]

[Moderator] We request that the reporters give their names, and the media they represent.

[Pastora] Commander in Chief of the Cuban Revolution Fidel Castro Ruz: My name is Joaquin Absalon Pastora, director of EL MOMENTO and VEINTIUNA HORAS of Managua, Nicaragua. Although no resolution has been issued at the end of the meeting on the Latin American and Caribbean foreign debt, an extraordinary and feasible possibility has resulted inasmuch as it has been suggested that the Latin American presidents hold a summit meeting to discuss the problem. This would entail, of course, exchanging points of view with presidents such as Pinochet, Stroessner, and so forth. Would you attend this summit, and even exchange points of view with statesmen of that nature in an effort to seek a solution to the Latin American and Caribbean foreign debt?

[Castro] Well, I am not afraid of that. I am not afraid of Pinochet, or Stroessner, or any of those people. I have said before that one must discuss things with the enemies. I have the same poor opinion of the U.S. President as I do of Pinochet or Stroessner, because the U.S. President, the U.S. Government, and imperialism are the creators of all those regimes. I am willing to talk with the father and the children. This does not mean that I am willing to establish any friendship with Pinochet or with Stroessner or any other person similar to those individuals. However, I think, and I have said this before, that the representatives of all countries must meet at the international organizations. At the United Nations, one listens to the speeches of all the representatives, whether they represent the Mexican Government, Pinochet, or fascists such as the apartheid, who are also very good friends with the United States. Debates are held in these meetings. I am not afraid of debating, of participating in a debate with all these people.

If there is a meeting at the United Nations, one cannot exclude anyone. It's like when there is a summit meeting, no one can be excluded. That is the law, a principle, a norm. For example, when Cuba was hosting the Nonaligned Meeting it had to invite all governments, regardless of their ideologies and their personal likings. In that manner, all ideologies and types of government are presented in the Nonaligned Movement.

Some of these governments are even bloodletting, but they belong to this movement and no one who accepts participation in either politics or sports can exclude others. So this is a tradition and an international practice. I would not be at all worried to attend a meeting of heads of state. They will speak, will say some things, we will say some things, but I don't see any problem of any sort. [Words indistinct] it would first be necessary to convoke a meeting of Latin American and Caribbean heads of state and that all of them or most of them accepted. Then, the meeting would be held and the circumstances that you have mentioned would occur. As I see it, our attending such a meeting would not constitute any problem at all.

[Reporter from Panama's LA PRENSA] [Words indistinct] of LA PRENSA in Panama: There is a practice in Central America involving joint civic actions carried out by the Panamanian, Honduran, and Salvadoran Armed Forces with the U.S. Army. These are military exercises through which these countries have benefitted with schools, roads, and hospitals. What is your opinion of this type of joint military operation?

[Castro] A marvel. They have solved the health and illiteracy problems. This is why there is no illiteracy, lack of health, or malnutrition in Latin America. This is due to these actions that are so worth praising in which the United States carries out military exercises. It would be much better for the United States to cooperate in construction of schools, hospitals, and houses -- and whatever they wanted -- with the builders. The military profession does not build schools or hospitals.

My opinion of these maneuvers is based on the fact that this is a practice imposed by the United States in Latin America. To disguise the interventionist, aggressive, and warmongering nature of these maneuvers, they try to cover it up with a small fig leaf. So they build some little school, some health center, some highway that, like those in Honduras, are for military purposes only. This is the first time I have ever heard that they have built a single school in Honduras. Perhaps the press would be to blame for this because they did not report on this.

However, I have heard about their building three or four new landing strips. They have expanded 14 or 15 landing strips. They have built a bunch of military camps, as well as trenches and fortifications. More than this, however, they have built strategic roads, thus preparing for an invasion against Nicaragua, creating all technical conditions and all (?circumstances). I will not pass judgement equally on all the armies that participate in these exercises. I know that Panama participates in these types of exercises. Panama has no other choice because there is the canal and the Yankee troops are in the canal area. There is a signed treaty whereby the canal has to revert to Panama.

I think the Honduran Armed Forces presently play one of the most important roles in Latin America. These forces play a patriotic role. They must guarantee the security of the canal according to the treaties of Panama. I am speaking about Panama. Excuse me. The Panamanian military forces must guarantee the security of the canal according to the treaties. They have to develop, organize, and train their men.

If the Panamanian armed forces were not well trained, the Yankees -- with the pretext that the canal is not safe -- would most likely refuse to hand over the canal. Fourteen years still have to pass. This is why I think Panama needs stability, domestic unity, and a close relationship between its Armed Forces and the Panamanian people. Panama has a very important, patriotic mission: to attain an objective for which they have struggled for nearly a century. Therefore, I can see very clearly that the function of the Panamanian armed forces is different from that of Honduras. I cannot mix them up.

Of course, I don't even hold an absolutely negative view of the Honduran Armed Forces. I know that there are patriots in the Honduran Armed Forces. I know that there is unrest and a growing opposition in the officialdom of Panamanian armed forces against this subtle kind of permanent military occupation. [someone interrupts] Did I make a mistake again? Oh, it must be that I do not function well in the morning. [laughter]

In the Honduran Army, some officers are growingly restless. Of course, the exercises in Honduras are different in nature than those in Panama. The exercises in Honduras are clearly aggressive in nature against Nicaragua, while the Panamanian National Guard's participation in exercises with U.S. troops in Panama has a political and security objective, far different from the exercises in Honduras. I have heard much about the civic works carried out by the National Guard under Torrijos' direction and inspiration. I know that they did build schools, houses, and community services. This is almost a tradition. So the circumstances are different.

Generally speaking, I have a very poor opinion of these exercises aimed at interfering with our peoples and influencing the armies. You remember that when Salvador Allende was deprived of all resources and support, cooperation with the Chilean Army, Navy, and Air Force continued, apparently in preparation for the coup that ousted him. The U.S. exercises in Latin America are not for these noble and unselfish purposes, but they are for interventionist purposes. This is my opinion. I will now take a little tea.

[Moderator] I wish to remind everyone, please to state his name and the media he represents.

[(Ferrera) -- in Portuguese with simultaneous Spanish translation] (Argimir Ferrera), Radio Educativa and LA TRIBUNA newspaper, Rio de Janeiro.

[Castro] I would also like the speaker to stand up so I can see him.

[(Ferrera)] Mr President, the Brazilian Government headed by Jose Sarney took office 5 months ago. So far, no decision has been made regarding the reestablishment of relations with Cuba. First of all, I would like to know if the Cuban Government has any views regarding this delay and if the establishment of relations will benefit us and Cuba?

[Castro] There is no disappointment. On the contrary, we are happy to see how the process of democratic opening is being consolidated in Brazil. I have always felt that the issue of formal relations is not that important. From my viewpoint, the most important thing is that the democratic process in Brazil be consolidated. We do not have a chauvinistic soul. We cannot, under any circumstances, subject the national interests to the interests of such an important country in our hemisphere such as Brazil. We do not pressure for relations. We feel that at this moment the government is facing many and very complicated problems and these must have priority over such things as relations with Cuba.

I do believe that the idea of reestablishing diplomatic relations with Cuba is advancing. You must give it time. Be understanding. Do not exert any type of pressure in this sense. What we are interested in is Brazil's success, its advance toward the consolidation of democracy. This is what is truly important as far as I am concerned. There are no formal relations but there is communication. We send them documents; we have sent them these documents we have published. We have also expressed our opinions to President Sarney. There has been an exchange of letters, a very respectful and cordial exchange of letters. The two countries are aware of their common interests.

There is trade. There is no blockade, nor is trade between Brazil and Cuba forbidden. Trade is being developed between the two countries. We are buying Brazilian products, some equipment. We will continue to develop trade and then, as something natural, the relations will be established. For many reasons, I feel that the relations will be highly beneficial for Cuba as well as for Brazil.

[Lopez] Juan Manuel Lopez, EXCELSIOR, Mexico City. Commander, following the trade union meeting, you made a comment. This was out in the hallway. You said that you were willing to hand over the banner of the foreign debt to anyone willing to take it and go forth with it to the end. I then asked you if Mexico could pick up the banner. You did not answer with a yes or a no; you only told me that Mexico is traumatized because it has suffered many aggressions. I would like you to expand on this. Also, the VOA, through its special services -- they have a name I will not use because of my respect for you -- is trying to use the outcome of the meeting against Alan Garcia of Peru. It could also be the reason for Mexico's official absence at this meeting.

[Castro] What meeting did you say that they were trying to use?

[Lopez] The continental dialogue on the foreign debt.

[Castro] You have asked three questions. First of all you committed an indiscretion because if it was a talk out in the hallway and you published it...

[Lopez] No, I have not published it.

[Castro] [chuckles] You have not published what we talked about. Well, whatever I may say in private can be heard in public. I never say anything that I would not dare to say in public. I have always been consistent. It could be that under more intimate conditions you talk with more freedom. However, the main ideas do not change.

I have said that we are not defending an exclusive Cuban interest when we raise this banner of the struggle against the economic crisis, the foreign debt, and for the new international economic order. I explained this at length yesterday. I have been talking about this for the past (?15) years. I do not think that any other Latin American politician has this experience, nor has he followed such a consistent line in a single direction. I brought the issue up when Latin America only owed $30 billion. Back then I began to ask how this debt was going to be paid. Therefore, this is a subject I have been talking about for a long time. I am not bent on taking the position of a leader or champion. We picked up the banner because no one else did. It just took its natural course. A problem, and idea, we had been worrying about for a long time.

We said that we would give the banner to any country willing to raise it and that we would support this country. We were talking about this. However, you cannot forget that there is another idea, and as a result of this other idea I said that there was no longer a need for anyone to raise the banner. The banner had been taken by the workers, the laborers, the peasants. The banner was being raised by the peoples. It is best that this banner be in the hands of the people, in the hands of the masses. What we have done is consistent with this idea.

In the past 8 weeks, five international meetings have been held here in Havana. Women, journalists, communists, and trade union meetings and this meeting, which has been the biggest and most important attended by all the political forces, with a majority of the political forces -- I cannot say that all of them were here, but I can say that all the social sectors were represented.

There were more than 100 trade union leaders; more than 50 women delegates; approximately 60 student leaders; approximately 90 religious leaders; tens of journalists, intellectuals, columnists, and scientists; and most important is the fact that 115 party and political organization leaders were present. Hundreds of organizations and political parties were represented at the meeting. I doubt if anyone can say that it is not one of the biggest meetings held in any one place.

The real purpose of all this is to give the banner to the masses, and this is what we have done. Therefore, I feel that there should be no candidate to raise the banner because the people already have the banner. The banner is resting in very sure hands, and best of all, in the hands of the people. This is how I feel.

I said that Mexico is a very traumatized country because of the aggressions it has suffered throughout its history. We cannot forget that in the past century Mexico experienced an unjust and abusive war, a war of conquests during which more than half of the Mexican territory was grabbed. They grabbed the best land -- wealthy in minerals, oil, hydraulic resources, and other natural resources. All you must do is remember how much was grabbed away from Mexico during a war of unjust conquests. It has experienced a historic trauma because it has powerful neighbors like we do. They have more than 3,000 km of common border. There are constant acts of hostility against Mexico. We cannot forget what they did during the Mexican Revolution; we cannot forget the military interventions during this century, the occupation of the port of Veracruz.

Mexico is a country that not only the United States has intervened in, but also the European powers that came to Mexico and installed an (?idiot) king -- Maximilian of Austria, I think that was the guy's name. Well, he was finally shot, and I do not think he was worthy of this honor.

All those foreign aggressions have created a trauma in Mexico. It also has created patriotism and nationalism in Mexico; a strong feeling of love for the country. I do not think there is a Mexican who can conceal these aggressions. The country that has been most attacked in this hemisphere has been Mexico. Its border with the United States is 3,000 km long. As I say, this is a country with a trauma from the aggressions it has undergone. It is an extremely worried country, with good reason, because of potential threats due to its geographic position and its neighbor's aggressiveness. This is what I meant about the Mexican trauma.

However, Mexico was always represented here because more than 100 Mexicans came to the meeting. There was not an official representation from the government nor from the official party, but we understand this perfectly well. Mexico is going through a very delicate, very difficult economic situation and it is acting very carefully and very prudently. I understand perfectly that a meeting of this nature, so broad, in which the issue was going to be discussed, a meeting that so much worried the neighbors of the north, has caused some unrest among some governments and parties.

We know of many persons who wanted to come, but because of the fact that they were congressmen, members of the executive committee, members of the government [words indistinct] under the present tense and delicate economic circumstance and the Yankee hypersensitiveness regarding the meeting, they thought it was wise not to attend the meeting. However, the Mexican Government absolutely did not place any obstacles in the way of more than 100 distinguished and representative Mexicans to attend the meeting.

No matter what the Voice of America says, we know it is a newsmonger, although it claims to be objective.

That is the image it tries to convey. However, we certainly know it is not objective. It was a ridiculous contrivance. There was nothing against the Peruvian Government. As I explained yesterday, we do not have anything against any government and much less against the Peruvian Government.

Instead, what we saw yesterday was a spirit of solidarity with Peru. When the news came of some measures taken by the Yankees, there was an immediate feeling of support and solidarity with Peru among the participants in the dialogue. This meeting can be interpreted not as a meeting based on antagonism to the new Peruvian Government, but as inspired in the spirit and for the purpose of solidarity with the new Peruvian Government in all the measures implemented to free the country from its dependency and overcome the burdening economic crisis. Besides, one thing cannot be linked to the other.

As a matter of fact, at first we thought of holding the meeting on 28 July, when we first decided on the meeting 2 months ago. Why did we want to hold it on 28 July? So it would be closer to 26 July and so people who came to the 26 July celebration, most of them invited by our country, could also attend the meeting. We did not want to hold the two events too far apart, so as not to force them to stay too long in the country. When we realized that it coincided precisely with 28 July, and that many of the persons invited to this meeting were also invited to the meeting in Lima, we postponed our meeting 2 days. A plane waited there until the inauguration acts ended on 30 July to bring the persons we had invited to this meeting.

Therefore, far from interfering or disturbing one meeting, what we did was postpone our meeting so it did not interfere with the inauguration of the new president of Peru. I really do not know the source of the outrageous theory reported by the so-called Voice of America.

[Moderator] The companero in the back with the mustache.

[Castro] The one with the mustache? There are quite a few wearing mustaches. [laughs]

[Moderator] No, I have already identified him.

[Mendez] My name is Manuel Mendez, I represent [name indistinct] a radio station in Montevideo, Uruguay. Commander Fidel Castro: Have you thought of attending the October meeting of the Latin American Parliament in Montevideo as a member of the People's Government National Assembly, and what is the importance you give to this meeting?

[Castro] I consider this meeting very important. I am very pleased with the fact that Uruguay will be the site for this meeting of the Latin American Parliament. As I said yesterday, this should be a very broad meeting, with a large attendance. I think that the largest number possible of Latin American parliamentarians should attend this meeting. As I said yesterday, according to the political and constitutional principles, the parliaments represent the sovereignty of the people; they are the ones who should approve the laws. Regarding the foreign debt problem, they were not consulted at all. In many cases even private debts of $100 million were acquired, which the people are supposed to pay now. These debts were not acquired by the executive branch or the parliament. Nevertheless, it recently became a common practice for the states to assume the private debt, which in many countries is paid with a devalued currency. So the best business was to have requested a $100 million credit 5 years ago, deposit the money abroad, as many did, and now pay back the $100 million with a devalued currency, which is the same as receiving $100 million and paying back $20 million. All these things have happened, without the parliament's approval or participation.

Therefore, I think that the meeting in Montevideo will be of great importance. In my opinion, the largest possible number of parliamentarians should be present. I think that all parliamentarians have a right to attend; however, we have not really considered, I have not thought about the possibility, I have not had time yet to consider, if it would be convenient or not to participate in that parliamentarian meeting. I do not think that it would be essential, I do not consider myself such an important or indispensable person. I am not offering or proposing my presence at all international events. Even if I had the idea, I could not even announce it publicly. Many times when I decide to travel somewhere, or to go anywhere, be it at the United Nations, or any Latin American country, I must be very careful, because the CIA is following me. They are tracking me down. I know it, you know it, and you know and understand that I am not inventing anything. They are aware of every single movement with the idea, strategy, and tactic of physical elimination. This is nothing new, they tried it many years ago and now, with much more reason, because they are extremely worried about the activities Cuba is developing in regard to this very serious economic crisis. This is my reply to your question.

[Cabrera] Commander Fidel Castro, my name is Luis Cabrera, from La Voz de Nicaragua [Managua Domestic Service]. Nicaragua is a country that right now has more than 7,000 dead, crippled, orphans, as a result of the U.S. Government's civic actions. Will you please give us your opinion on the factors that have made it possible for the Sandinist people's revolution to reach its 6th anniversary despite the constant U.S. attacks? Also, what do you think would happen in Nicaragua and on the continent if the United States should decide to invade our country?

[Castro] I think there are more than 7,000 dead. I understand that more than 10,000 Nicaraguans have died as a result of that war. I believe that Ortega himself mentioned this recently. [2-second break in transmission] of peasants defending their towns. Others who have been recruited by the United States to join the counterrevolutionary groups have also died. If we count those who have been wounded or crippled, the number is even higher. If we consider the number of (?children) who have been displaced by this dirty war; those who have had to leave their homes, their land, their [word indistinct] there would be many more. I think it was Julio Lopez who recently mentioned the number of dead and compared it with the U.S. population. He said that it would be equivalent to the death of 600,000 U.S. citizens. When he mentioned the number of displaced people, he said that it was equivalent to millions of U.S. citizens displaced from their homes and towns. That powerful and rich country has caused a real tragedy in a small, poor, underdeveloped country, whose only crime has been to conduct liberating revolution, overthrowing the Somozist dictatorship. There is no justification whatsoever for this. In my opinion, history will be harsh in judging these actions.

In the same manner, history will judge as a transcendental factor the heroic resistance of the Sandinist people during these 6 years. The Sandinist people, faithful to Sandino's traditions have resisted in the same way Sandino did. However, Sandino led a movement that was still relatively isolated in remote places in the country, fighting against the Yankee occupation. Today, it is the Nicaraguan people, millions of persons, hundreds of thousands of armed men and women who are resisting the attempts of Yankee occupation. The reason for their resistance is perfectly clear. It is the same as the Cuban resistance, and the resistance of the French people during their revolution, against foreign interventionists. It is the same as the resistance of the Soviet people against foreign intervention following the October Revolution. History has shown that an authentic, real, legitimate revolution is invincible. When the people take the revolution's flag, get together and fight with heroism, they cannot be defeated. This resistance proves the authenticity and profound meaning of the Sandinist revolution.

[Robles] My name is Manuela Robles, from Radio Corporativa of Santiago, Chile. I would like to ask you, Commander, if you believe that it is possible to achieve in a relatively short period of time a political consensus and unity of the Latin American countries in view of the magnitude of the crisis in order to adopt a joint action that will finally solve the debt problem? So far, it has been difficult to solve, in view of the terrible problems of our peoples. We have heard of declarations, courses, a development of awareness, and I am not referring to this current meeting, but nothing has happened in Latin America. The governments are apparently very afraid of the IMF, the World Bank, the United States, and so forth. I would like to hear your opinion.

[Castro] Actually, an objective dependency has been created. The governments must hold meetings every month with the IMF, with the World Bank. They are in a very delicate situation. The United States does not lose a minute in adopting pressure measures, economic measures. The United States practically has veto power, and the power of decision in the IMF, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, in all of these international organizations. The governments are very limited in what they can do. This dependency makes the U.S. policy of keeping these governments divided easier. This makes it easier to keep the discussions isolated while they form a powerful club, a complex of countries very closely united. We have this problem.

They resist and reject the idea that the Latin American governments can unite. They have prevented that Latin American unity, that indispensable unity of action in this situation, which is very serious. Logic says that it would be basic to unite and prepare joint action, because the problem affects everyone, and has characteristics common to all. However, imperialism tries to keep all of us separate and divided, by adopting measures of pressure against one country, favoring another one, which is the case of Chile, where the World Bank grants Pinochet some loan practically every week or every 2 weeks.

The Yankee administration sometimes abstains, showing off its usual hypocrisy, but everyone knows that without the U.S. support there are no loans, much less for a country, with an unstable political situation, which owes approximately $23 million. They do favor some governments who are in desperate economic situations. For example, the U.S. government supports the Duarte government in El Salvador and the Army there. It is said that it delivers over 1 million [not further identified] daily, mostly to finance the war expenses. With that dependency, the governments are not very free to act.

Costa Rica has a desperate economic situation. It depends on what is sent every month. Thus, many countries have a very weak economy. They have very little, if any, freedom of action to form that unity. Then, the most influential countries, the most important countries have to be meeting, discussing every month. They find themselves forced to act in a very prudent, cautious manner. I feel that they are excessively cautious at times. However, their situation is such that it will force them more and more to try to coordinate and unite their actions.

As I said yesterday, I am not sure if this problem will be solved through a previous consensus of all the debtors or will it be that one, or two, or three countries will become desperate and will adopt unilateral measures, and it would turn out to be like at the Malvinas Islands, that there was international solidarity in the midst of the crisis. [sentence as heard] I think that the situation has worsened to such a point that it become more logical every day that all Latin American governments hold a meeting. Naturally, the United States will try to sabotage this meeting, following the theory of the Romans, of dividing to conquer.

Will the Latin American summit meeting proposed by three Latin American presidents be held? Three have already proposed it and a fourth or fifth one will probably propose it. It is possible that this meeting might be held some day. It would be important, because perhaps it would be a good chance to seek coordination of action. The Cartagena Consensus was a sort of coordination, but as I explained yesterday it (?lacked) logic, or rather had only the logic of the United States' opposition to create Latin America unity. Those who organized the Consensus restricted it to 11 countries, rather than including all the countries, approximately 30 countries. These countries have a right to vote in the United Nations, in the Group of 77, and although they do not carry a lot of weight by population or economic strength, they have a political importance which must be acknowledged. They have strength in the international organizations. That is as far as it went. Now. let us wait to see what happens in the coming months. If there is unity and consensus, and by initiatives of the governments, unity is produced when there is no other alternative.

[Moderator] The newsman in the background.

[Gutierrez] My name is Carlos Maria Gutierrez of the NUMERO magazine from Venezuela. Commander, George Will and other ultraconservative U.S. columnists have suggested to the Reagan administration the possibility that peace negotiations in Central America be accompanied by concessions on Cuba'a part, concerning its relations with other countries, particularly Africa. In other words, there is the possibility that the U.S. Government would not harass Nicaragua any more, providing Cuba makes concessions in its relations with other countries, particularly African countries. Can you comment on this?

[Castro] What the United States has to do, is to respect international law, respect the sovereignty of an independent country such as Nicaragua, abandon its ideas of dirty war. That country has no right to make any demands on that country. On the other hand, we would have no right to participate in any negotiation at the cost of third countries that are friends of Cuba. That would be something morally impossible, something politically impossible. We are not willing to grant imperialism the least concession regarding our relations with other Latin American or Third World countries which are based on principles.

[Moderator] The reporter [name indistinct]

[Reporter from Managua] [Words indistinct] of EL NUEVO DIARIO of Managua, Nicaragua. [words indistinct]

[Castro] [Castro seems to be making a side comment to someone at the table] It seems that they are moving more than the others, because I don't think Mendoza actually knows them.

[Reporter from Managua] We have noticed that this meeting in Havana has revived a Bolivarian feeling among the Latin American peoples. However, we also notice that Mr Reagan has revived the Monroe Doctrine, particularly against my country and in Central America. My question is: Isn't the solution to the problem in Central America and peace in Central America akin in substance to the problem of the foreign debt of all Latin American countries? In other words, if the Monroe Doctrine is enforced in Central America, how could the other Latin American countries face up to imperialism with regard to the foreign debt? That is my question, commander.

[Castro] Well! I remember that, in response to a previous question, [word indistinct] the match. I have been asked for an opinion as to what would happen in Latin America if there is an intervention in Nicaragua.

I have been thinking it would be like playing with fire, with a great big fire near a huge powderkeg because anyone who understands anything about politics knows that this hemisphere, amid this crisis, is truly a powderkeg. Nobody knows what may happen. I think the imperialists would be really crazy if they commit the blunder of invading Nicaragua. Nobody can affirm that they will not do so, because nobody can affirm that they are not absolutely mad. This is not logical and, in my opinion, they will most probably continue to step up their dirty war and exact a higher and higher price from Nicaragua for its freedom.

As for the talk about the Monroe Doctrine at this late age, this belongs to the era before the deluge. If we analyze how much Latin America's political awareness, spirit of independence, and spirit of unity have grown, the Yankees cannot fail to take into account what happened at the Malvinas.

This was an invasion, a war between a European power and a Latin American people, or country, Argentina, and the people forgot all about the government they had there. They disregarded it completely. They acted correctly, because this was a matter of solidarity with the Argentine people, regarding an old cause that everybody has been defending. I remember that since my school years I have been defending Argentina's right to the Malvinas because it is a colonial enclave.

Now, imagine an invasion of Nicaragua, a prolonged war, a heroic resistance, because the patriotic spirit and bravery of Nicaraguans are well-known. The Yankees cannot underestimate the Nicaraguan people like they underestimated the Vietnamese people.

The Yankees had an opportunity to learn what the Vietnamese people were like later. Apparently, they saw that the Vietnamese were short people who ate only rice. However, they turned out to be the bravest soldiers in the world. Nicaraguans are like them, and so are the Dominicans, who have already fought with the Yankees. They are like the citizens of any country on this hemisphere. Because, as I have explained, this is a blend, this blend [words indistinct] a mixture of backward Negroes, uncivilized Indians, and proud Spaniards.

There are already others besides the Spaniards, because I have heard a union leader from Santarem speak with tremendous strength out there. I have heard him speak twice and he is of German ancestry, yet he already is more of an Indian than an Indian from the mountains, as far as his mentality, thinking, and feelings are concerned. This mixture is dangerous and produces tremendous soldiers, above all when it is combined with a just cause, a patriotic feeling, and revolutionary inspiration.

Therefore, there is not the slightest possibility of imposing the Monroe Doctrine here. We are witnessing this Latin American insurgency, this spirit of rebelliousness. Who is he going to talk to about the Monroe Doctrine at this time? However, it is possible. Reagan belongs to the political prehistoric times. [Castro chuckles] However, it is not strange for him to think so. However, wishes are one thing and reality is another.

How can this doctrine be imposed on 300 million people? How can it be imposed on Brazil, Argentina, Peru, Mexico, or Central America? Thus far they have been able to (?try) because the revolutions have taken place in very small countries. They invaded Santo Domingo and they embargoed and did all sorts of things to Cuba. However, here we are. What good was their famous Monroe Doctrine? They tried to apply it here, and now it is even more difficult for them to apply it. They came across 10 million inhabitants who had a revolutionary and patriotic political conscience and were organized, prepared, and armed.

No, this is a horse of a different color. They cannot even think of it. I think that we are [word indistinct], and we must be given the modest credit of having smashed the Monroe Doctrine to pieces. How can they try to apply it now to the rest of the continent? They want to do so. Maybe if they apply a doctrine that is not based on the Monroe Doctrine but based on the ideas, mentality, and philosophy of imperialism; that would be modern. The Monroe Doctrine harks too far back.

They claim the right to say what type of government or what type of social system a Latin American country can have. This is even more grievous than the Monroe Doctrine because the Monroe Doctrine did not arise as a result of social struggles in Latin America, but as a result of rivalries between the United States and European powers. They applied it when they saw fit and did not apply it when it did not suit them.

They did not apply it at all to the Malvinas case. How can they raise the dirty rag of the Monroe Doctrine now? They did not apply it when the French, the Spaniards, and others invaded Mexico to establish an empire there. They have applied it as they see fit. However, this doctrine did not arise as a result of social struggles.

Instead, this aggressive and interventionist policy has emerged as a result of the social struggles of peoples and imperialism's huge fear of social change in Latin America. The doctrine they are applying now is worse than the Monroe Doctrine. However, it will fail.

It is possible to invade a small country like Grenada, with 400 sq km, by surprise and treachery, amid a terrible division created by the revolutionaries themselves, and to reap the fruit of the blunders committed by the revolutionaries in Grenada. However, if a revolution were to take place in any big or medium-sized Latin American country, I would like to see if they would be mad enough to try to put it down with a tiny battalion of paratroopers, because some of these countries can wipe out not only 1 but 100 or 1,000 paratroop battalions. I am convinced that even Nicaragua could wipe out dozens upon dozens of paratroop battalions. Therefore, this interventionist policy will come to an end, as did the Monroe Doctrine.

[Moderator] [passage indistinct]

[(Tumayer); in English with simultaneous Spanish translation] Bearing in mind what you have just said about Nicaragua and your description of the situation, what do you think about....

[Castro, interrupting] (?Pardon), will you say who you are, please?

[(Tumayer)] (Johap Tumayer), FRG radio and television. Bearing in mind what you have just said about Nicaragua and the description of the situation, what do you think about a probably future solution to the conflict in Nicaragua? How can this take place and when?

[Castro] A future solution. I think that Nicaragua is a victim of the Reagan administration's obdurate desire to liquidate the Sandinist revolution. He is bent on liquidating it. He is almost personally committed to achieving this purpose. That is why the United States has sabotaged all of Contadora's efforts and sabotaged every possibility of achieving a political settlement of the Nicaraguan problem. Unfortunately, the possibility of achieving a solution will arrive the day the United States becomes convinced, as it is not convinced now, that it will not be able to liquidate the Nicaraguan Government with its dirty war.

Then, it will find itself with the option of negotiating in earnest and seeking a political solution or the mad, incredible option of plunging into an interventionist adventure with its own forces.

The Nicaraguans are paying a high price for their struggle and heroic resistance, but I think that they have the possibility of forging ahead. They count on a people who are becoming more and more experienced and on cadres who are becoming more and more experienced. By fighting they have gained experience and skill. Their Army is becoming more and more efficient in the struggle against the mercenary bands, which are constantly being supplied with sophisticated equipment by the United States. Through this heroic struggle they are bringing about the possibility that at a given time good sense will prevail and imperialism will give up its hopeless dream of liquidating the Sandinist revolution through armed action, terrorism, the dirty war, and the economic embargo.

We also went through times involving subversive actions like these -- although they were not of the magnitude of the ones they are carrying out in Nicaragua because our country has no borders. They had to come by sea. Our people developed a great unity from the start. We had the experience of the war in the mountains.

For that reason, they did not manage to organize here a strong counterrevolution. They organized many groups, to which they gave resources and supplies. They also supplied them with a leadership and created all necessary psychological conditions. They managed to create some 300 counterrevolutionary organizations -- some directly and some through instigation. Sometimes four or five people would get together and make up a counterrevolutionary organization. What happened is that among those four or five there was one that was a revolutionary and we knew more about what they were doing than they themselves because our files were better organized.

Of course, they did not succeed, despite the threats of aggression and the invasion of Giron. They have carried out many Giron-type actions in Nicaragua, but in a more subtle way, little by little, through the north and the south. They launched one Giron invasion here. They sent in their full force in one attack and thought that there would be an uprising. However, they did not believe this. They said they believed it, but applied a strategy with a different objective, which was to occupy a piece of territory and establish a government that would ask the OAS for help in order to justify the U.S. intervention.

That was really their idea. I do not think they believed, even if they said so, that there would an uprising of the people. They even had a government ready to send here on a plane. That is to say, they were creating an interventionist mechanism. [Words indistinct] the experience of the October crisis until they finally got involved in the Vietnam adventure and left us alone. They no longer threaten us now but we are, let us say, 100 times, I do not know many times stronger than we were during the years 1960, 1961, or 1962 -- infinitely stronger, not only quantitatively but qualitatively. With our struggle, boldness, and determination we won the right to relative peace. I think that with their heroism, Nicaraguans will achieve a well deserved although relative peace.

[Moderator] In order to make the best use of the time we have and also to be as fair as possible in distributing the turns, we would like for the Peruvian reporters who are going to ask questions to please raise their hands.

[Oscar Eduardo Bravo] Oscar Eduardo Bravo of Radio Programs of Peru. Commander Fidel Castro, I have two questions. First, what is the Cuban Government's position regarding the terrorist group Shining Path, which is operating in Peru, and now according to reports is also in Bolivia, Chile, and in Tucuman, Argentina?

Second, do you have doubts about President Alan Garcia's abilities? This I ask based on your message in which you seem to question him, as if doubting what he has promised. Do you have any fear of losing some of your leadership in Latin America, especially among the group of debtors?

[Castro] You have asked at least three questions in one, which do not seem to have any relation. You ask me about Shining Path. I absolutely have no links with Shining Path. I do not know and have never known anyone linked to Shining Path. I know as much about Shining Path as you do. It is a mystery. I have said in some of my interviews that it seems to confirm the country's state of social instability. It seems to confirm a very deep economic crisis in the country. That is what Shining Path seems to mean -- more so, when you read the statistics on Cuzco, about the number of illiterate and hungry peasants and undernourished children.

A Peruvian peasant leader who spoke here recently complained about very few people having more than 200 calories daily and according to what the charts recommended a person should consume 2,500 calories daily. There are children who are only getting 10 to 15 calories [corrects himself] 15 to 20 grams of protein daily, who should be consuming an average of 60, 70 or 80 grams of protein. More than 100 children for every 1,000 die every year. I call this terrorism of the worst kind. How many children are going to be born in Peru? Peru has approximately 20 million inhabitants. Suppose we place the birthrate at 3 percent. This means that at least half a million will be borne and if 10 percent of these die in their first year of life, this will mean that 50,000 children will die. However, with a health system like the one we have in Cuba, more than 40,000 of those children could be saved. This means that the existing social system is the cause of the death of 40,000 children every year. To this we must add those children who die between the age of 1 and 5 and those who grow up with physical and mental problems. There is not a more heinous form of terrorism than the one created by that exploitation system.

Yet, I only hear about the other type of terrorism, never about this terrorism. I would like to hear more talk about this type of terrorism. The other terrorism is a social outburst.

Anyone can understand that whenever there is a movement advocating a program that has unknown objectives and intentions, but that remains active after so many years, this means that the country is facing a terrible social situation.

I realize that this problem cannot be solved with weapons. Peru's internal peace problem can only be solved through political means. Among such means, are the eradication of the social factors and causes that originated the problem and when the people of the rural areas and cities and the abandoned children stop dying of hunger and when there is no malnutrition, poverty, and unemployment.

The problem must be faced by going to the roots of what is causing these conditions and not by the use of force. The problem will never be solved by weapons. The social cause of the problem is clear and deep. Any politician, scientist, or sociologist can perfectly explain the situation.

I think that if a patriotic and nationalist effort is made; if an anti-imperialist struggle for independence is carried out to solve these problems, you could be on the path to solving the existing situation.

You mentioned to me that the Shining Path is deployed all along the Andes Cordillera. But how can I tell? You tell me that it is also in Bolivia. I know that Bolivia has similar social conditions. It is in Paraguay, also. I think that there has been some exaggeration and that such reports have a purpose. It has been disseminated by someone interested in having the people believe so.

I think that my message was clearly and frankly supportive. We published a note wishing the government success. We said that if he [Peruvian President Garcia] really carries out a serious, steady and upright struggle to free the country from imperialism and to solve social calamities, he could count on Cuba's support. I think the message was clear and categorical. He can count on our firm support. I did not express any lack of confidence. However, I have a responsibility to my people. I cannot a priori express unconditional support. I expressed support as we usually do for everyone within given circumstances. You must realize that there has been a great deal of rhetoric in this hemisphere. We cannot be guided just on plain words, we must wait for facts. If the deeds live up to the promises, then we will not hesitate to give him all our support.

It is preposterous and ridiculous to think that there exist any leadership rivalries in connection with the debt or to imagine that we pursue the philosophy of the imperialists or the capitalists. We are revolutionaries by principle and conviction. It is as if someone said: that revolution you have carried out in Cuba has been personally motivated. I think that the Bolivian priest (?there) said very eloquently that he had realized that this revolution could move forward without Castro.

So, you think I could be concerned about the question of leadership? What we have done is to contribute to the extent of our abilities to creating the conditions... [changes thought] a revolution, to the development of a revolution, to all the people, to a number of cadres in order to make it possible for the country to move forward and perhaps even better without Castro than with Castro. So do you think I could really be worried about questions of leadership or protocol. This is [words indistinct]. This is prehistoric. Do you think this is possible for someone who has a bit of maturity?

I have already explained this. I said on 26 July that one of Marti's thoughts that I adopted as my own at first [words indistinct] thought was the idea that all glory in the world fits into a grain of corn. Ambitions of leadership and glory are for madmen. They will never inspire me, the world has had a great many madmen. History is full of madmen and everybody laughs at them now.

The least a revolutionary can aspire is to be respected when he ceases to exist and not to have people say: Look at that madman who wanted to be the leader of this and that. Cuba has prestige. Cuba is respected because of its conduct and I think that, talking about glory, there cannot be a greater glory for a Cuban, a revolutionary, or a people than what our people have done during these past 25 years to resist the colossus of the North, the one feared by all, the one before whom so many kneel. Cubans have resisted, and resisted firmly during 25 years. We have defended this trench, which is not the trench of a people, but the trench of all peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean. This glory is greater than any other.

Our people have succeeded in stamping out illiteracy. On the whole, our workers have reached a level of education close to the 9th grade, whereas 30 percent of them were previously illiterate. Our education, health, culture, and employment indexes [have improved]. We have scored victories against gambling, corruption, and prostitution -- as well as with regard to street begging and abandoned children. I am convinced that the social work of our revolution will go into history, not because what we have done, but because of what we are doing and the pace at which we are doing it. We had 6,000 doctors and they left us with 3,000. We now have 20,000 ready to go anywhere in the world, whereas previously there was not a single doctor ready to go to Cuba's countryside. They go to Kampuchea, Vietnam, or anywhere.

Our country had no teachers, but now it has 256,000 professors and teachers.

The total must now be [figure indistinct], counting the ones who have just graduated. They can go to any place in the world. What spirit, what conscience! I think that if anyone were concerned about just merit; just, clean and undisputed glory then there cannot be a greater accomplishment than that. I think that what our people have done in 35 [as heard] years cannot be excelled by any other thing. Therefore, I think that the idea of some rivalry with regard to leadership in any field is strange, ridiculous, and fit for two-bit politicians.

[Moderator] (?Do) any U.S. reporters want to ask questions?

[Guillermo Arenas] Guillermo Arenas, AMERICAN PRESS NEWS, Central America and Caribbean Division, headquartered in San Jose, Costa Rica. President Castro, a few weeks ago, in one of the many border incidents between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, two Costa Rican civil guardsmen died. The American version is that this was one further aggression by Nicaragua against Costa Rica.

[Castro] One?

[Arenas] One more aggression by Nicaragua against Costa Rica and Costa Rica'a neutrality. The Nicaraguan version was that it was a combined CIA and counterrevolutionary action which had the blessing of the Costa Rican Government. What is your position and that of your government on this specific incident?

[Castro] I very much regret the deaths of two Costa Rican civil guardsmen. They have unquestionably been the victims of a situation that has not been created by the Nicaraguans. It has been created by the United States. Really, the one violating Costa Rica's neutrality is not Nicaragua, but the United States, which has organized all the mercenary bands there, that belong to these organizations called Democratic Revolutionary Alliance [ARDE] and Nicaraguan Democratic Force [FDN] with Somozists, turncoats, and people of that type. As everybody knows, they have been acting freely and openly in Costa Rica for years. The mercenary bands supported by the United States are the ones which have violated Costa Rica's neutrality, and we know of the huge efforts Nicaragua is making to prevent even the slightest incident at the border.

However, there are hundreds, or thousands of mercenaries across the border who cross it constantly, provoke fights, and attack. Military operations are carried out near the border. I think that these are the circumstances that imperialism may have used to carry out this provocation involving the killing of the two Costa Rican civil guardsmen.

One must talk about the hundreds of Nicaraguans, of Nicaraguan fighters, of men, women, and children who have died there in Nicaragua as a result of the actions of the counterrevolutionary bands who are acting barefacedly, and with the obvious complicity of some authorities, out of Costa Rican territory.

We [words indistinct] this once more, the malevolence of the Yankees, their propaganda machinery. Nothing is said about the hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of Nicaraguans who have died as a result of the forays of those bands and [words indistinct] in the death, probably provoked and planned by them. These were mercenary bands in cahoots with the CIA. I have no proof of this, and I cannot say so for certain. However, it is quite probable.

But, even if an accident, an incident takes place there at the border, it is logical that Nicaraguans have to defend themselves, and no matter how careful they are, if one of their units is attacked they may get close to the border in chase. Now then, are Nicaraguans to blame for the situation that has been created there?

What I have told you is true; it is history. The first time he came here he had no other place to go; he was being persecuted like an animal. He came to get medical assistance. He was then authorized to live here if he wanted to live here; he could receive medical assistance if he needed medical assistance; we do not care what the United States has to say. We do not care how much money he had; it could be 100, 500 million or 1 billion; we do not care. Now the United States wants to create a scandal in an insolent manner because of this issue. And they have chosen this moment to create the scandal. They did things that violate our laws.

They rented a car -- and this I know, I know every little detail. I know who rented the car. I know the number of the license plate, who drove the car. They were seen; they saw a car and hid behind a bush near the house where this man is said to be living. I do not know if he lives there. I do not know him and I do not know where he lives.

How did they know all this? Undoubtedly, through the intelligence reports of the U.S. CIA agents who are part of the personnel of the U.S. Interests Section here. We know more than four things, perhaps more than they know. They supplied the information, sent a plane, a female journalist rented a car, the other four persons joined her in the car, they parked inside a garage of an empty house, they got out of the car -- the cigarette butts are still where they dropped them -- and all of this doing what? Persecuting a man. The television report even said that he was with his wife and daughter. They even told a lie in that televised report. They quoted me as saying that this man was not here. The only time I have mentioned this man was in March, I think, when I was interviewed by THE WASHINGTON POST. In March or February.

Now they have come surreptitiously to conduct an intelligence operation in collusion with the CIA, and they violated Cuban laws in order to obtain some clues and photographs of this man. Is it right to persecute a human being like that? They talk about human rights, but they persecute a man all over the world as if he were a wild beast. He is being persecuted right where he is with his wife and daughter. They have invented the theory that he is under house arrest. Really, this is the first time I have heard such a thing, nobody has ... [changes thought] I have no knowledge that he is under those conditions. I suppose he is subject to the same restrictions as any other foreigner, but he is not under house arrest; that's a different story.

A country that boasts about human rights is persecuting one of its citizens. It's all in the family. [laughs] What do they want to do to him? Pull his eyes out, strangle him, tear him to pieces? The country that harbors all the thieves in this world, all the drug traffickers and bandits of this world? The motive behind this action is clear, it was not done before. It was planned, and it could only be done with the CIA's participation. For this reason, I am glad that you brought up the subject on behalf of THE NEW YORK TIMES, an honorable newspaper that I really respect. I would like you to report my words textually. It is the same thing I told the journalist from THE WASHINGTON POST who inquired about the same subject.

[Moderator] The journalist from Puerto Rico.

[Reporter] Thank you. I would like to refer to the U.S. territorial policy toward Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico's case will again be reviewed by the Decolonization Committee next week. During the past few weeks, liberationist and autonomist groups have been placing great hopes on a pact that the United States is considering signing with the Federated States of Micronesia granting more power and a certain scope of autonomy. However, I believe that in the case of Puerto Rico, there is a fundamental difference due to the enormous U.S. economic and financial investments.

How do you see this balance of forces? Are there real possibilities of (?changes) in Puerto Rico, and is the U.S. territorial policy really changing? How do you see Puerto Rico's situation at the Decolonization Committee this year?

[Castro] You have asked some technical questions. I do not even know the status of the Federated States of Micronesia. I do know that Puerto Rico is a Yankee colony, which has been under U.S. occupation for almost 90 years. However, I also believe that Puerto Rico has its own right to independence. I also think that it has played a heroic role. Puerto Rico has maintained its Latin personality, language, traditions, and culture, despite the most brutal U.S. political, cultural, and economic penetr tion. I think that Puerto Rico is really an example to the world for its authenticity. Of course, the United States has made large investments there; I have heard that they total approximately $20 billion or more. However, [words indistinct]. It is the country with the highest unemployment rate, despite the 1.5, 2, or 3 million Puerto Ricans -- I am not sure how many -- who live in the United States. It is the country with the world's highest number of welfare recipients -- welfare, by the way, may soon be restricted. Puerto Rico is a country that has been led to be totally dependent on the United States and the multinational companies. However, this will not stop the course of history. I think that as Latin America becomes more independent, the possibilities for Puerto Rico's independence are greater. As Latin America gains independence and achieves its integration, Puerto Rico will have more possibilities for independence. Puerto Rico, like any other Latin American country, needs to be part of its environment, culture, and world. I do not ... [changes thought] What can I say about technical [words indistinct] between one status or another? What I visualize and dream about is a free, independent Puerto Rico, integrated with the community of Latin American and Caribbean nations.

[Moderator] It is now the turn of the Soviet journalists.

[Unidentified Soviet journalist] I will ask a question on behalf of two media representatives: the NOVOSTI PRESS AGENCY and Stanislav Kolchenko, correspondent for the Soviet radio and television. More than once during the meeting, it was pointed out that part of the funds now spent on the arms race would be better used to help the developing countries. In this regard, Comrade Fidel Castro, what is your opinion about the statement made by Mikhail Gorbachev, who has proposed a moratorium on nuclear tests?

[Castro] Yes, but it has nothing to do with the ... [changes thought] What you said is that associating this to ... [changes thought] you asked or said that the subject of peace in relation to the economic crisis was mentioned....

[Soviet journalist] This was mentioned the day the meeting was inaugurated.

[Castro] That is correct. As I said last night, this struggle, this battle is and should be closely linked to the struggle for peace. As I mentioned last night also, peace is the main concern in Europe and in the industrialized countries and more so in the Third World countries, since as I said, the Third World is facing war. More people die of hunger each year in the Third World countries than died in 1 year of the world war. We also consider it very important to link the interests of the Third World countries -- which are also interested in peace, as well as in solving their economic problems, the foreign debt and the establishment of a new [economic] order -- with the interest that the industrialized countries have in peace. I also mentioned something that is not applicable to socialist countries, which is the great concern that exists in the developed capitalist countries over the unemployment problem.

I believe that the Soviet leaders have made more than one statement -- in my opinion very important -- in this respect, including the public statements expressing support for the struggle of the Third World to overcome the crisis, to solve the problems stemming from the economic crisis, and for a new international economic order. I also mentioned yesterday as an example that the socialist countries supported the Third World countries in their demands for new norms on the Law of the Sea and the 200 miles, even though it was against their interests. I feel that any measure that can contribute to detente and peace is positive.

However, I am not proposing unilateral disarmament by anyone. I understand, and clearly see that if the United States follows an arms race policy, the USSR and the socialist countries cannot disarm themselves unilaterally. We see the issue of the reduction of military expenditures as a policy and a principle applicable to capitalist and developed socialist countries, and that a percentage of the resources that are spent today on weapons could be used to deal with the problems and difficulties in the Third World. I understand that whenever this has been proposed at the United Nations, the USSR has supported the initiative, just like it supported the proposed new international economic order which was approved 10 years ago. I see this gesture of the USSR as a proof of goodwill, as one of the many gestures of goodwill it has made lately, to which the United States has turned a deaf ear. I see this is a good gesture, and I do not consider it a unilateral disarmament by the USSR, which frankly I would disagree with. I do agree with a halt to the arms race in all the countries in the world, which is totally different.

[Moderator] We urge the journalists to get a little closer to the microphone when asking their questions, in order to make the translation easier. We will now give the opportunity to the journalists from Ecuador who wish to ask a question. Companero journalists from Ecuador....

[Gonzalo Ortiz] Mr President, Ecuador was one of the few countries that sent an official government representative to this meeting, and the Ecuadoran delegation was one of those that more clearly spoke against the economic policies of the current government, which wants a renegotiation of the debt under the conditions of a neoliberal and rightist economy. How can we understand the friendship that the current Ecuadoran Government and Cuba are developing? And, secondly, what is the outlook for that friendship? Will it be maintained in the future in spite of the fact that the opposition has stated -- and it has stated it here at this meeting -- that there are growing arbitrariness and rightist leanings in the Ecuadoran Government?

[Castro] Really....

[Ortiz] Forgive me, commander, I did not identify myself. I am Gonzalo Ortiz, deputy director of the daily HOY of Quito.

[Castro] One of the countries with the largest representation at this meeting was Ecuador. This really pleased us very much. Practically all the presidential candidates came and all the parties were represented. We were really pleased with the fact that the government also sent an official representation. I can interpret this no other way than as a positive and independent gesture. This has been also, in some ways, a brave gesture. Several countries sent official representatives, but not all, and we must view positively those countries that made the decision to send an official representation.

The relations that are being developed are going fine. We in Latin America must apply the principle of peaceful coexistence, especially with regimes that are constitutional. We are pleased with the development of relations with the government, the people, and the political parties of Ecuador.

These relations are being developed in the fields of economy, trade, and in the exchange of experiences in various fields. I think that this is the policy we must follow, independently of the fact that in those countries there is the government and the opposition. Everybody knows how we think and everybody knows that the United States has done everything possible to isolate and to blockade us.

There was a time when it was able to isolate us from all the Latin American countries with the exception of Mexico, the only country with which diplomatic relations were maintained. When a country decides to develop diplomatic and economic relations with Cuba, and in addition there is an elected constitutional government in that country, I think that it is fair and proper to have relations. It is logical that at a broad meeting with such diverse representation there will be many opinions considering, especially, that all the opposition political parties were at the meeting. But I do not think it is my role to pass judgment on the domestic policies of countries, especially of those countries with which we have relations.

I can pass judgment on the situation in Chile, Paraguay, El Salvador, Haiti, countries which are enduring ferocious dictatorships with which we do not have any relations. Nevertheless we do not ever try to tell the opposition in those countries what they must do. We not only respect what the governments do but we also abstain from passing judgment on their domestic policies; we also strictly abstain from passing judgment on the policies, tactics, and strategies of the opposition parties. We maintain a position of total respect for both the government and the opposition. I believe this is the only way to maintain proper and respectful relations among political organizations and among governments. As I have said to some people, to some journalists, the secret of our excellent relations with leftist and revolutionary organizations is that we have never adopted arrogant positions, that we have never tried to give our opinion on what they are doing or what they should do. We limit ourselves to stating our opinion only when we are asked for our opinion on something.

This is why those organizations have a high opinion of Cuba, respect our country, and develop friendly, trustworthy relations with us. For this reason, I am sorry, but I don't think it would be proper for me to pass judgment on the country's domestic policies.

[Moderator] The companeros from Colombia, if you have any questions...

[Nora Parras] I am Nora Parras, representing the weekly NEUVA FRONTERA, of Bogota. Commander, first, the presidents of Colombia and Cuba have said in their own countries that they maintain excellent relations. What was President Betancur's excuse for not sending an official representative to this meeting? And, second, what is [words indistinct] at this meeting, in the framework of this meeting, the position, the decision, of the church, or that of the people of the right?

[Castro] That is two questions. There are no formal relations with Colombia, but there are relations of respect, friendly relations. There are exchanges of opinions on various matters, especially as a result of Colombia's role in Contadora. We have exchanged opinions on more than one occasion on the Central American problems.

As I told many governments yesterday, I sent Colombia the documents that have been published. I have told Colombia about my points of view on this subject. We have exchanged correspondence on this subject. I can say that at this level relations are good. The Colombian Government did not send an official representative but it did not prohibit any of the important people -- including government party people, conservatives, congressmen -- from visiting and participating in this meeting.

We did not say: Send a delegation and we did not expect presidents to come. We did not expect them to send official delegations either.

We did write to all those governments with which we have diplomatic or friendly relations, even if there are no formal relations. We informed them about the meeting. We told them we would like them to attend and also that we would understand that this would be difficult. This is an elemental courtesy. We also thought it respectful to inform them about the people we were inviting. It was not as if we were submitting a list with the names of the people we were inviting for approval. We informed them, as a matter of basic courtesy, about all the important people we were inviting.

I did not expect official representatives, but several came from several countries. There was an exchange of information. They thanked us for the invitation. They were very kind. They acted, I think, according to their appraisal of the situation at the moment.

You may have noticed, as I have said, what happened in the Mexican case. As a result of the international situation, the tension of the economic situation, the grave problems, the various efforts in progress, and the campaign against the meeting to a certain extent some governments had their doubts about sending a representative.

But all those who sent representatives are satisfied. The government representatives are satisfied because the meeting took place in the framework of much respect. As you have noticed, there was criticism of certain policies by guests from some countries. But this criticism was made with much politeness and on the basis of concepts and ideas. I did not hear one single offensive word from the more than 100 speakers who participated. I did not hear a single insult.

Very seldom have I participated in a meeting at this level of politeness, respect, and tact. And no one was asked to speak this or that way, or to respect and not attack his government, or not to use strong words or insults.

The most interesting part of all this is that the conduct of all the speakers was completely spontaneous. This gives you an idea of the standard and quality of the persons who attended this meeting. Moreover, I heard many representatives from the opposition, such as Uruguay, Peru, and other countries actually express support for their governments along certain lines and on certain policies. This was another demonstration of the great maturity of the participants.

You asked me what impressed me most. I would say that I was very, very impressed by that Latin American and Caribbean spirit that was reflected at the meeting, that identity, that unity, those sentiments of community that were evident at the meeting. I was very pleased with the fact that this was the first meeting at this level held by all the Caribbean and South American countries because, since some had been Portuguese colonies, others Spanish, and others British, there was a great lack of communication among the political forces of these countries and the rest of Latin America. And Latin America is also strengthened from this communion, contact, bonds, and this common struggle with English-, French-, and Dutch-speaking countries. This really impressed me.

I already told you that I was impressed with the honesty. I was impressed by the quality of the speeches, the lofty concepts, the original ideas expressed with elegance, with beauty, with charm, the ideas and communication skill of many speakers, the seriousness of their speeches.

Also, there was outstanding participation by the Christians because this was a new thing, a new phenomenon. It was almost a revelation. There were speeches not only by priests, not only representatives of Evangelical churches, but many politicians also spoke like Christians and expressed Christian sentiments.

This was truly noteworthy. I cannot say that some were better than others, but I can say that brilliant speeches were delivered by the civilian politicians as well. Some even claimed that they were atheists. However, they ended up with much respect for the church, with a communal spirit toward the Christians. Unquestionably the speeches delivered by the Christians were brilliant, several of the speeches. I consider the letter from Cardenal [name indistinct] one of the most extraordinary of the documents received at this meeting. [Words indistinct] Mendez Arceo, the Puerto Rican girl who spoke the first day spoke brilliantly and above all, they spoke with great conviction.

I was much impressed by the collective conscience that emerged from the meeting, which was what mattered most. These were the things that really impressed me most.

[Moderator] The comrades from Argentina who are present.

[Hector Ferrari] I am Hector Ferrari from television Channel 8 and the newspaper CORDOBA from the city of Cordoba, Ernesto Guevara's city. Commander, please make a comment or analysis of the Argentine position concerning the payment or treatment of its foreign debt.

[Castro] An analysis would be very difficult. This is a thought. The government of democratic opening received a country that was completely mortgaged and in a very difficult position: A $48 billion debt, staggering inflation, and recession. It is also a country affected by all these protectionist measures. Argentina has to export wheat and corn and has to compete with subsidized U.S. wheat and corn. It has to export beef, which is subsidized in Europe. It has 600,000 tons of frozen beef that it is selling for $800 [unit not specified] by depressing the price because it pays the domestic producers $2,500. These are really difficult circumstances.

I believe that if [words indistinct] compare to make a definite judgment of the policy that the Argentine Government is following, and the final decision that it will adopt on the foreign debt. I believe that it adopted a series of measures that were principally aimed at fighting the terrible evil of inflation. It had to do something to stop inflation. However, the struggle against inflation does not necessarily determine the attitude to be taken on the foreign debt. Some of the measures adopted such as limiting credit to 4 percent and freezing prices, are generally opposed by the IMF. I believe that the speculative sectors were affected by these measures. That is why I say that the combined measures adopted against inflation are in my judgment independent of the policy that the Argentine Government will eventually adopt on its foreign debt.

There is no question that it is negotiating with the Cartagena group and with other countries, proposing the idea of holding a meeting of chiefs of state, and I believe that in this whole process it is still too early or premature to make a judgment on the definite attitude it will take on this very serious problems of the foreign debt. I know that it is an enormous burden for the country.

I spoke about this yesterday and I also spoke about how the three countries were last year making an enormous effort for a greater commercial surplus, a combined surplus among the three -- Mexico, Argentina, and Brazil -- which are the three with giant foreign debts and with the largest industrial and economic development. They had achieved the miracle of a $30 billion surplus. However, as things are going already, this year the surplus will be approximately $20 billion. That is, Argentina will have a surplus that is lower by more than $1 billion, Brazil's will be $2 to $3 billion lower, and Mexico's will be between $5 and $6 billion lower. Apparently the surplus will be that much lower from last year.

In 1984 they made an enormous effort and I imagine that they depleted much of their raw material stocks and did not replace equipment or spare parts. This can be done for 1 year, but it cannot be done for 2, 3, or 5 years. This is impossible.

They restricted their imports. This can only be done for 1 year. It is impossible to do that for 2, 3, 5 years. There is a tendency in all countries to increase exports [corrects himself] imports that are indispensable in order to maintain the level of exports. In addition, these countries have had to face new protectionist measures, particularly from the industrialized countries -- mainly the United States -- and this situation has further aggravated the crisis. The foreign debt problem is getting worse. The interest rates have been reduced a little, by approximately 2 percent. However, this drop has far from compensated the losses that Latin American countries are experiencing as a result of the reduced prices, protectionist measures, limitations to exports, and increase of imports. In other words, we are facing a problem which seems to be worsening, and the Latin American countries have not really made a final decision on it. I am absolutely convinced that the alternative of paying the debt does not exist; it is impractical. Therefore, I believe that other solutions should be sought in one way or another.

[Moderator] Journalists from West Europe, come this way.

[Bereta] My name is Jani Bereta, of the Italian MANIFESTO. Do you think that the West European capitalist countries could play a different role from that of the United States? I am specifically referring to the foreign debt problem. Some Swiss-German banks and those of other countries have adopted measures different from those of U.S. banks. For example, in the Central American crisis, they have not joined the embargo declared by the Reagan administration. The relations between the two areas have increased, there is an initiative between the EEC and the Contadora Group and Central American countries, which some observers have viewed as Europe's return to Latin America. Would you say that these are significant signs of a different role to be played by West European countries? Thank you.

[Castro] There are serious differences between the United States and the EEC, even competition. The United States has adopted protectionist measures against European products, which have forced the European countries to respond with other measures. There are significant conflicts. Of course, the policy of the West Europeans is not exactly the same as the U.S. policy. I think they are more concerned and interested. I think that they too have been affected by the U.S. monetary policy, by the overvaluation of the dollar, by the high interest rates, which have encouraged the flight of capital from West Europe to the United States.

The U.S. policy has deprived Europe of funds for development and has contributed to worsening the economic problems in West European countries, whose economies have grown very little during the past few years. The U.S. economy experienced a growth of 7.4 percent last year, to a large extent at the expense of the Third World, but also at the expense of Europe, which was deprived of investment funds when U.S. money was extracted. We know that the West European countries always have complaints at the summits; they do not voice them openly, but there are complaints. Furthermore, the West European countries do not all act in the same way. For example, I recall that during the Malvinas crisis, Spain did not act in the same manner as the rest of the West European countries. Other countries, such as Italy assumed a more moderate position during the crisis. They also have different economic policies. The UK is a unconditional U.S. ally, both economically and politically. The FRG is also a unconditional U.S. ally in the political and economic fields, but it is more concerned over this crisis -- I know that -- than the United States. France has conflicts with the U.S. policy. This was evident during the latest summit of the most powerful, industrialized and rich capitalist countries.

France demanded a new international monetary system, and wanted to link matters related to trade with the monetary issue. The United States opposed this, on the grounds of a policy that supposedly favored free trade.

In reality, at that time there was a shower of proposals at the U.S. Congress for protectionist measures, and today a wave of protectionism has invaded the brains of U.S. businessmen. In this manner, previously leading industries such as the chemical and electronic fields were already asking for protectionist measures, because they did not consider themselves capable of competing. This has its logic. Someone did the Japanese a great favor by banning the use of funds in weapons. They simply used these funds in investments. However, since no one has done that favor to the United States, Mr Reagan will be spending $2 quintillion, $2 Yankee quintillions [preceding figures as heard] in military expenses in 8 years. A fabulous sum, and this is in addition to a budget deficit of $200 billion and a trade deficit that will reach this year $150 billion. Yet the Japanese, who have a favorable trade of balance, are buying parts from the United States and are investing in the world.

Therefore, by the end of this year, the Japanese will become the greatest investors abroad. They have invested $90 billion in the last 3 years. In 1984, they invested $50 billion, and already this year, they rank first in the world. They own about 450 industries in the United States, they lend money to the Yankees, they buy bonds and shares in the United States.

They are doing all this while the madness of "star wars" is going on, and the arms race, which will lead to a very serious situation for the rest of the world. In a selfish manner, the United States achieved an increase of 7.4 [not further specified] during 1 year. But how much has it achieved this year? Only 1 percent in the first 6 months, and it is doubted that it will increase by 3 percent during the second 6 months. This means it would accumulate 2 percent [as heard], which means its engine is in reverse, as a peasant would say. That engine is going to stop. All of this affects the Third World countries in a harsh and difficult manner, and makes life more difficult for the Third World countries, but it also makes life very difficult for the European countries. The United States has very close allies, but others are not so close to the United States, and they have different policies. We hope that with regard to this very serious economic crisis and the foreign debt, several European countries will take a stand different from that of the United States.

[Castro, mumbling apparently to someone at the table] I think we have been at this for 2 hours. (?Are we about to end?)

[Moderator] Companeros, we have been working for 2 hours. As Commander Fidel explained at the beginning, there has been a great deal of work done over the past few days. However, we will take one last question. We would like to be as fair as possible. Since we cannot please everybody, we beg, beforehand, those who will not be able to take the floor not to feel offended.

Where are the Venezuelan newsmen? There they are. Identify yourself, please.

[(Andres Balzan)] I am (Andres Balzan), director of the magazine SOBERANIA, organ of the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Our America. First of all, President Fidel Castro, I want to congratulate you for your brilliant speech last night. Second, I want to recall that in the past few weeks three very important events have taken place in Cuba: one involving journalists, another labor union people, and this continental meeting on the foreign debt. Commander Castro has repeatedly noted the importance of the foreign debt issue reaching the Latin American and Caribbean popular masses. We believe that the presence of newspapermen like Miguel Angel Capriles at this event is very important.

We realize, as it has been made evident at this news conference, that the propaganda war of imperialism and the CIA against this important and crucial problem that affects all the people of Latin America and the Caribbean has begun.

Knowing the links that the Inter-American Press Association [SIP] has with the CIA, I would like for President Fidel Castro to evaluate the responsibilities that the journalists have in the propaganda war. Thank you.

[Castro] In a commentary yesterday I sincerely expressed my opinion of Mr Capriles, about his presence, and his contribution. I expressed my respect for someone who in very proper terms, in my opinion, presented this problem 3 years ago. His presence was evidence of broadness. His points of view show how much this struggle can unite everybody, how much concern there is among men and women from all social sectors. I believe that the fact that he was here and that he freely said what he said is very symbolic. I have been recalling that Capriles is the person who called for unilateral disarmament by the West, and I think that yesterday I attributed this to Lopez Michelsen.

SIP is the association of media owners. The associations of journalists are the associations, or organizations, of the media workers, of those who are really journalists, of those who go after the news and edit it. So the two cannot be the same at all. On the one hand we have the owners, those who have the authority, the ones who in the end decide what gets published and what does not.

The journalists and the printers, as well as the typesetters, are the ones who make journalism. You can understand that it would be very difficult to have a SIP meeting in Cuba. As you say, it is very much linked to the United States. I would not say this about the journalists.

I do not have any proof but I know that there are many [owners] who are closely linked, through economic ties, subsidies, and aid, to the U.S. Government. There are others who are linked to the CIA. However, to honor the truth we must also say that many news media owners are linked neither to the U.S. Government, nor to the CIA. I also know many honorable media owners, and some of them spoke here at the meeting. For this reason I cannot generalize. We are speaking of two completely different organizations. I have a high opinion of journalistic organizations, the Federation of Latin American Journalists [FELAP], and the various journalist unions. In fact, a Brazilian representative came to the meeting of journalists. He was representing tens, perhaps hundreds, of thousands of journalists. I think he, and the journalist who met here were representing hundreds of thousands of workers.

SIP represents a few hundred, perhaps tens -- I don't know how many members it has -- of owners. I don't know how many members it has because I don't have any relationship with it. It has always been very hostile toward the revolution. It has always followed U.S. policy.

They defend ideas that are totally opposed to the ideas of the Cuban revolution. As I said yesterday, imperialism needs weapons, cannons, tanks, planes, and bombs because they have no ideas. They cannot compete in the field of ideas. They cannot even sustain their ideas as soon as there is a deep analysis. For this reason it needs weapons. If the struggle were to be waged in the field of ideas only, then imperialism is lost.

They have, of course, the news media, massive communication. This is what they have. Lacking ideas, they require ownership of the media. And since they lack ideas for their struggle against socialism, they need cannons, tanks and planes. Lacking ideas in their struggle against the national liberation movement -- not to mention the struggle against the movement for socialism -- they need cannons, tanks, planes and bombs.

They lack ideas for their struggle against true democracy, or against democratic processes -- since they are sworn enemies of all democracies and unyielding allies of the worst regimes of the world, including Pinochet, apartheid, South Korea, etc. Since they lack ideas for their struggle against the progress of the people, they need cannons, tanks, and planes, which is what they have. They have properties, millions, multinational banks, cannons, tanks, and planes, but they have no ideas.

Please close it.

[Moderator] Companeros...[applause] We understand how you feel. We thank Commander in Chief Fidel Castro for his time and for granting us this news conference. We warmly thank all the Latin American and Third World journalists who have come to Havana to cover the foreign debt meeting.

HIROSHIMA ANNIVERSARY REMARKS VIEWED

FL061153 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Text] President Ronald Reagan has tried to justify the dropping of U.S. atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by describing the bombing as an effort to end the greatest war in human history. Reagan actually stated at a press conference that the dropping of those bombs, and the United States' power of nuclear dissuasion have been the reasons why the peace has been kept since World War II ended.

FUNDORA CRITICIZES U.S. AT HIROSHIMA MEETING

FL051528 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 5 Aug 85

[Text] The president of the Cuban Movement for the Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples, Orlando Fundora, who is attending the international meeting opposing the atomic bomb being held in Hiroshima, Japan, has said that the foreign debt can endanger world peace. At the meeting, which will end tomorrow, Cuba has acknowledged the role played by the Japanese Council Against A- and H-bombs.

Fundora said that U.S. experimental use of the bomb against the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki contrasted considerably this year with the 40th anniversary of the victory over fascism and militarism. He acknowledged thatthe threat of nuclear war is latent in the worldwide military posturing of the present U.S. Administration.

Orlando Fundora, president of the Cuban Movement for the Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples, said with reference to present U.S. foreign policy that the United States supports the bloodiest dictatorships and carries out its policy of armed aggression wherever there is a people's government. He said that in Nicaragua and Cuba the aggressive policies of imperialism forces the governments to invest resources in national defense that could well be invested in public health, education, etc.

The Cuban delegate to the international meeting against the atomic bomb being held in Hiroshima said imperialism is planning the most colossal rearmament program ever while conducting insane adventures like that of "star wars." He also said that part of the resources used by the United States in the arms race are taken from the so-called Third World countries.

ANGOLAN DELEGATION VISITS, MEETS ACOSTA

FL060116 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Text] A delegation from the sister country of the People's Republic of Angola composed of Evaristo Domingos, Politburo member of the Popular Liberation Movement of Angola Labor Party, and (Baltasar Rodrigues Da Silva), People's Vigilance Brigades coordinator, has been received by Armando Acosta, alternate Politburo member and national coordinator of the Committee for the Defense of the Revolution at the mass organization's national headquarters. The two countries' officials discussed tasks performed with masses in defense of revolutionary processes. Tonight, the Angolan delegation will visit several defense committees at the cadres level in Havana.

DELEGATION ATTENDS BOLIVIAN INVESTITURE

FL051230 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Aug 85

[Text] A delegation of the Cuban Government has arrived in La Paz to participate in the investiture of Bolivian President-elect Victor Paz Estenssoro. The Cuban delegation is headed by Jorge Bolanos, vice minister of foreign relations.

MEDICAL GROUP SENDS LETTERS TO REAGAN, GORBACHEV

FL061912 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Text] In observance of the recent unilateral Soviet decision to suspend nuclear testing until January 1986, the Cuban Medical Committee for the Prevention of Nuclear War has sent letters to the chief executives of the USSR and the United States. The message addressed to Gorbachev says that his gesture is an important contribution of the CPSU and the Soviet Government to its consistent policy on the full development of humankind. In the letter to Reagan, the Cuban Medical Committee for the Prevention of Nuclear War exhorts the Yankee chief executive to keep the gesture of the USSR in mind and take a similar position.

WATER SHORTAGE, RESTRICTIONS CONTINUE IN HAVANA

FL060140 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Text] Last week, Havana's water volumes were reduced by over 8,000 cubic meters a day. This tendency of reduced availability of water will continue. Rainfalls for July were not sufficient. The Provincial Post for Distribution of Water calls on the management of production and service centers and on Havana residents to adhere to water saving measrues, which will permiet reduced restrictions on water distribution.

OIL REFINERIES TO BECOME OPERATIONAL IN 5 YEARS

FL061753 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Text] Fundamental works that represent investments of more than 400 million pesos in the oil refinery industry will begin operating within the next 5 years. This includes the reconstruction of the Nico Lopez Refinery in Havana City, which will cost 90 million pesos, and the expansion and reconstruction of the Hermanos Dias Refinery in Santiago. This also includes a new plant with a processing capacity of 1.5 million tons of oil and the construction and superior cost of 300 million pesos of the first stage of the Cienfuegos oil refinery, which will have a processing capacity of 3 million tons of oil annually.

NEW SOLUTIONS NEEDED TO FOREIGN DEBT PROBLEM

FL061524 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 31 Jul pp 1, 11

[By Tulio Navarrete]

[Text] Technical Secretary of the Presidency Orlando Haza del Castrillo said last night that the Dominican Government is not considering the possibility of not paying the foreign debt. To the contrary, the government favors facing the situation "within the terms of clear financial laws, honoring pledges made." He said that it has been stated on repeated occasions "by President Salvador Jorge Blanco himself and by many of his officials" that new solutions are needed. He said that position has been maintained by the Dominican Republic within the Cartagena Pact, where the country is struggling to achieve a political dialogue between debtor and creditor nations.

Haza del Castillo spoke at the unveiling ceremony of photographs of the 20 budget directors the nation has had. The ceremony was held in the National Office of the Budget.

He said the government is opposed to the idea of declaring the Latin American foreign debt unpayable. According to experts, the debt has reached the astronomical figure of $360 billion. He explained that the Dominican position is that new solutions, "new formulas" must be found because, he said, the debt has characteristics and a magnitude that are very unusual, even unheard of. Haza de Castillo said that this position has been presented by government officials at home and abroad. "These are negotiations that never cease. The creditor nations should recognize that new formulas are required that will permit the payment of the debt under repayment conditions that do not harm the growth and well-being of the debtor nations too much," he said.

Former President Juan Bosch and other opposition political leaders have stated their support for debtors nations to declare they are bankrupt and unable to pay their debts.

PENA GOMEZ ON TRADE WITH EGYPT, ISRAEL

FL051812 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 24 Jul 85 p 9

[By Octavio Mata Vargas]

[Excerpts] Egypt will sign an agreement with the Dominican Republic for the purchase of sugar over a 3-year period. Reporting from Madrid, Dr Jose Francisco Pena Gomez said there is a possibility that the Arab nation will also buy a sizeable amount of Dominican tobacco. The National District mayor and leader of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, who paid a 3-day visit to Egypt, added that it was agreed that the Dominican Government would send a trade mission to that nation or vice versa to finalize the agreements. Pena Gomez met in that Middle East country with high officials, including Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, who has also been minister of defense and of foreign affairs as well as commanding officer of the Egyptian Army Armored Batallion.

Referring to his visit to Israel, Pena Gomez said he had met with the top political leaders of the government and opposition, including Prime Minister Shimon Peres. In Israel, he said he had reached agreements at the party level which he considers to be fundamental for a future development of the Dominican Republic. Among the agreements, he said Prime Minister Shimon Peres, as leader of the Israel Labor Party, had promised to send immediately a high-level technological delegation to the Dominican Republic to prepare, with Dominican technicians, a national development plan.

JAMAICA

SEAGA REGRETS DEATH OF GUYANESE PRESIDENT

FL062226 Bridgetown CANA in English 2217 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Aug 6, CANA -- Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga says President Forbes Burnham of Guyana who died today, was an activist for regionalism. Seaga said in a statement Burnham was one of the few remaining early leaders of Caribbean political life. In the Caribbean he was an acitivist for regionalism and a Caribbean perspective, Seaga added.

The Jamaican leader expressed his regret that Burnham will not be host at the next Caribbean Community (Caricom) summit as I know how much he was looking forward to it.

In other reaction here, the leader of the Marxist Workers Party (WPJ) Dr Trevor Munroe said that although his party was highly critical of president Burnham's failure to retain and develop a democracy for the working people in Guyana, he will always be appreciated by the WPJ and the Jamaican working people for his anti-imperialist stand, his anti-South African position, in particular the stand he took against the American invasion of Grenada.

MINISTER EXPLAINS REJECTION OF PRICE, WAGE FREEZE

FL021640 Bridgetown CANA in English 2156 GMT 1 Aug 85

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Aug 1, CANA -- The Jamaica Government has said it cannot support calls for freeze on prices and wages as a matter of policy because such a step would be inimical to the foundations of a social market economy to which we are committed. The government's position was outlined in the House of Representatives by Public Service Minister Errol Anderson in response to a suggestion by Labour Minister J.A.G. Smith. Smith said that the people who were pushing for wage freeze were silent on price freeze as if one could work without the other.

Speculation in the local political circles was that Smith was voicing the position of a section of the ruling Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) that disagrees with the monetarist policy of Prime Minister Edward Seaga, which with its structural adjustment programmes, has thrown the economy open to regulation by free market forces, with minimal state intervention.

Anderson, who was completeing debate on sectoral budgetary issues in the house, dealt with developments in the public sector -- specifically redundancies and wage negotiations. Anderson said the government recognises the necessity of and pledged its support for collective bargaining and wage negotiations. He said there was justification for increases being sought by public sector workers but insisted that it must be based on output and productivity. Anderson said that if the public sector union demands were to be met, it would mean additional taxation to the tune of J250 million dollars which the government has no intention of supporting. Unions negotiating for public servants called a general strike in June to back demands for an increase in wage and fringe benefits offered by the government.

MANLEY ISSUES INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE

FL052000 Bridgetown CANA in English 1303 GMT 5 Aug 85

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Aug 5, CANA -- The leader of the socialist opposition People's National Party Michael Manley said today he regretted that Jamaicans found themselves in a situation where they were unable to celebrate the anniversary of independence in a spirit of national sincerity and national unity.

In an independence day message, Manley said it was not only political division which separate the people. He claimed there were the repeated acts of state betrayal, the continuous trauma of redundancies affecting thousands of families and the erosion of democratic traditions and institutions.

However, despite the problems he appealed to his countrymen not to lose hope as the current period was a testing time for all Jamaicans of goodwill.

Manley warned that Jamaicans could lose respect if integrity, credibility, trust and faith were not re-weaved into the national social fabric.

The 23rd independence anniversary celebrations are marked by continuing government austerity in the face of acute economic difficulties.

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

DE KONING SEEKS TO KEEP OPEN CURACAO REFINERY

FL061344 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Text] Dutch cabinet minister Jan de Koning, who is in charge of Antillean affairs, is traveling to the Caribbean today to discuss the future of the Shell oil refinery on Curacao. Last week, the Shell Company announced the refinery will be closed. Mr De Koning will try to persuade the Shell management to postpone the closure at least until the end of October. In the meantime, the Dutch Government will join officials of the Netherlands Antilles and Venezuela in the search for a solution that will allow the refinery to stay open. The Dutch Government is willing to give financial assistance only if the future of the refinery is assured. And that will depend largely on the price Venezuela will ask for the crude oil it supplies to the refinery on Curacao. The Shell refinery is one of Curacao's economic mainstays.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ACTING PRIME MINISTER ON GUYANA LEADER'S DEATH

FL062132 Bridgetown CANA in English 2114 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Aug 6, CANA -- Acting Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamaluddin Mohammed today lauded the late Guyana President Forbes Burnham as a dedicated regionalist.

Burnham died today at the age of 62. He was one of three leaders who formed the Caribbean Free Trade Association (Carifta), forerunner to the 13-nation Caribbean Community, in which he played a major part.

My reaction to Mr Burnham's death is one of shock and sadness because he has been a dedicated integrationist. One of the founders of the original Carifta grouping, one of the architects of the Caricom movement and one who has been known as one of the best supporters of the regional (Trinidad and Tobago-owned) airline BWIA and has always looked forward to a strong Caribbean and tried his best to cooperate with Caribbean colleagues on matters that relate to the integration movement, said Mohammed.

Prime Minister George Chambers is currently out of the country.

BURNHAM DIES; DESMOND HOYTE NEW PRESIDENT

Calm Prevails

PY062243 Paris AFP in Spanish 2212 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Excerpt] Georgetown, 6 Aug (AFP) -- Guyanese President Forbes Burnham died at 1015 local time (1315 GMT) today of a heart attack while undergoing a minor throat operation. Three hours later, Prime Minister and Vice President Desmond Hoyte took over as head of state.

Hoyte was replaced by another vice president, Hamilton Green. They are both members of the Burnham-led People's National Congress (PNC), the majority party in parliament, but there are no visible signs of any power struggle.

Upon announcing the death of President Burnham over the radio, Hoyte said that complete calm prevails in the country. Guyana, a country of 215,000 square kilometers and 740,000 people, is the only English-speaking country in South America.

It was officially announced that Burnham had undergone the operation, which was to keep him in the hospital only 1 day, to correct a minor ailment that occasionally caused him to have a hoarse voice.

An intense election campaign that had been taking place in Guyana has suddenly subsided as a result of the death of the president.

Georgetown Radio Announcement

FL062322 Georgetown Guyana Domestic Service in English 2230 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Text] President Forbes Burnham is dead. He died today at the Georgetown Hospital. There has been a widespread reaction in Guyana as well as the Caribbean following the announcement of President Burnham's death today. Regional leaders have been speaking about President Burnham's outstanding statesmanship and his contribution to the regional integration movement.

Incumbent Hugh Desmond Hoyte has been sworn in as Guyana's new president under the Constitution of the country. The new prime minister is [word indistinct] Hamilton Green.

Flags in government buildings and at all public places in Guyana are being flown at half mast [words indistinct]. Funeral arrangements are to be announced later.

Hoyte Remarks

FL061836 Bridgetown CANA in English 1827 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Text] Hoyte described Burnham as a great leader in his brief address. [as received]

I believe I fully reflect our common feeling when I say that this country stands materially and spiritually diminished as indeed does the whole world, especially the Third World, the movement of non-aligned countries, and this our own region, he told the nation. We shall commune with each other in the coming days. We shall draw strength in each other as we mourn our common loss and ponder our common destiny as authoritatively defined for us by our great leader. We shall grieve together in the coming days. We shall feel together in the coming days. We cannot replace him who has gone. All we can do is to hope to use his strength to bind up the wound so freshly sustained by our nation as we proceed precisely as he would have wished, Hoyte added.

Burnham was admitted to hospital last night to undergo surgery for a throat ailment and failed to survive the operation, Hoyte said. He died at 1045 am local time. Guyana's two state-owned radio stations interrupted their regular programmes with solemn music and flags were ordered flown at half mast.

Green Appointed Prime Minister

FL062338 Bridgetown CANA in English 2328 GMT 6 Aug 85

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Aug 6, CANA -- In just under a year, lawyer Desmond Hoyte has risen from vice-president (for production) to prime minister and president of Guyana. Hoyte, 56, took over as prime minister last August 16 on the retirement of Dr Ptolemy Reid. Today, he automatically assumed the executive presidency on the death of Forbes Burnham. One of his first acts was to appoint Vice President Hamilton Green as prime minister.

Hoyte noted that Guyanese shall grieve together in the coming days. He himself suffered the tragic loss on April 30 of his two teenaged daughters and a sister in a car accident in which his wife, Joyce was also seriously hurt. Mrs Hoyte has only recently returned from Cuba where she received treatment for her injuries.

Political sources here say that Hoyte has no identifiable power base within the ruling People's National Congress (PNC). This has placed renewed interest in the forthcoming biennial congress of the party. That conference, which, was expected to okay power-sharing talks with the opposition People's Progressive Party, was due within two weeks, but may now be postponed because of Burnham's death.

Unlike Hoyte, Green, who is in his mid-40's, is regarded as the only other person in the party hierarchy apart from Burnham who had a significant following among the rank and file. A former general sector of PNC, he rose from a civil service clerk, through the trade union movement. He is regarded as a hardworking and efficient but tough leader.

Political sources said the new party leadership will have to sort itself out before tackling the country's serious economic problems.